

'The next few days - some would say the next 48 hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state'

Beirut battle rages as Lebanon drifts to civil war

Only hours after his army thrust into the heart of West Beirut and pushed back Muslim militias who had seized large parts of the city...

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union yesterday condemned what it called "gross United States intervention" in Lebanon and called for the withdrawal of American troops from Beirut.

In shop doorways and side streets, teenage gunmen, some armed only with small siver-plated pistols, fired back in desultory fashion...



Shia fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades advance toward a Lebanese Army position yesterday

Solidarity protesters clash with police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The acrid whiff of tear gas again perfumed the streets of Poland yesterday as Solidarity supporters in many towns and cities demonstrated for their banned union on the third anniversary of the Gdansk agreement...

Officers freed then seized in Harare

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Joy among High Court spectators at the acquittal of six Zimbabwe Air Force officers on sabotage charges turned to fury and bitterness yesterday when they were immediately rearrested.

to independence, dealt at length with the officers' allegations that they had been intimidated, assaulted and in four cases subjected to electric shock torture to get them to make confessions.

The evidence of prosecution witnesses did not come close to establishing the guilt of the accused and the state's case rested purely on the confessions, he said.

However, even without this evidence he would have had to rule the confessions inadmissible because they were obtained after the officers had clearly been denied access to lawyers - a right enshrined in the legal code and the constitution.

When he announced the officers' acquittal there was prolonged applause and foot-stamping from the public gallery. The officers shook hands and embraced, some visibly moved.

A beaming Mr Harry Ognall QC, who conducted the officers' defence, said: "I am as relieved as I am delighted that six extremely honourable men have been exonerated."

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British Gas to shed thousands of jobs

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The State-owned British Gas corporation is planning to shed between 10,000 and 20,000 of its 101,000 employees by the end of the 1980s to try to improve efficiency.

Some of the jobs are likely to be lost through compulsory redundancies - a possibility that British Gas admitted yesterday it had succeeded in having deleted from a recent independent report on the industry's efficiency by Deloitte, Haskins and Sell, the accountants.

The 250-page report, jointly commissioned by the corporation and the Department of Energy, was published last week. It hit the headlines with its apparently startling conclusion that the corporation was still undercharging its customers despite record profits of more than £1,000m a year.

Both the department and the corporation last night confirmed reports in the specialist magazine, Accountancy Age, that a number of paragraphs had been left out of the published version on the grounds that they were considered matters of commercial confidence.

Among them was a paragraph which said that British Gas was considering whether a number of its 12 regions would have to announce compulsory redundancies this year. "It is important that such redundancies are

Continued on back page, col 7

West Beirut again came under a fierce and indiscriminate artillery bombardment during the evening as Lebanese troops desperately tried to continue a three-pronged attack across the west of the city in a last effort to dislodge Muslim gunmen and prop up Mr Gemayel's Government.

As the Lebanese Cabinet sat in conclave throughout the day, shells exploding around their yellow stone palace, Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, arrived back in the city, reportedly in a mood of the deepest despair.

Sniper fire all round office at moment and Lebanese soldier just reached AP Bureau. Will follow when it's safe to sit rather than kneel beside machine.

Beirut state radio blamed the Syrians for the bombardment of the city. There is not a shadow of doubt that the shells that landed across Christian East Beirut and on the coastal road north to Jounieh were fired by Syrian or Druze gunners in the Meta mountains to the north-east of the city, but the projectiles that

crashed into the west of the city were certainly not fired from Syrian positions, which are 14 miles away.

Indeed, for much of the day, it was possible to hear the artillery that fired the shells, the guns booming three or four seconds before the shells landed, evidently fired by Christian Phalangist militias or the Lebanese Army itself.

Just before dark, Lebanese troops fought their way as far as the Commodore Hotel, the centre of the international press corps in Lebanon. Soldiers ran up lanes ways beside the building firing bursts of sub-machine gun fire at snipers still holding out on nearby rooftops.

In a high-speed car drive across the ruined port and past the Lebanese Army's front line just before nightfall, I saw every evidence that the Lebanese Army was fighting to the death at least one of its attacks. Lebanese soldiers, their battle dress streaked with grime, their foreheads swathed in bandanas and their shoulders draped with ammunition pouches were lying in gutters and perched on rooftops as they tried to dislodge dozens of Shia Muslim gunmen in the Wadi Abu Jamal district.

Also in the Syrian capital, the regional office of the "Amal" Shia militia condemned what it called the massacre of Muslims in Beirut, although Mr Saeb Salam, Continued on back page, col 3

During the late afternoon, shells were landing so close to the offices of the Associated Press news agency - where The Times has its base in Beirut - that cordite smoke drifted through the rooms.

Many demonstrations were small and good-natured - ironic clapping of the militia - some, as in Gdansk, were large and tense, others, large and violent.

In Nowa Huta, the steel city near Cracow, demonstrators were said to have stoned trains and police used batons and tear gas to break up the crowd.

Since Mr Jumbalati's own militia, along with the Syrians, were contributing mightily to the bloodshed, this statement was - to say the least - something more than dishonest.

He told the crowd he would lay flowers at the crosses at 4pm and shouting and chanting their support. The workers accompanied him there. But riot police had surrounded the monument and an officer called out: "only Mr Walesa will be allowed to lay flowers."

The solidarity underground had called for a boycott of public transport when workers change shifts at factories, so as to have thousands of them streaming through the streets, perhaps chanting Solidarity slogans. The plan, however, was only partially realized.

The police presence was strong throughout towns and cities: in the Warsaw city centre militiamen could be seen running after youths shouting "gestapo".

The most typical incident for a day that will no doubt be hailed by the Government as another victory against Solidarity came outside the Ursus tractor factory near Warsaw. Most workers ignored the transport boycott call, but a few hundred marched around a housing estate, shouting "Zbyszek Bujak" (a former Ursus worker and underground leader) and making victory signs. They took a route followed in the early days after imposition of martial law.

Then, there were thousands of protesters, but yesterday there were barely 250.

The Government is determined to show that it has almost completely defeated the Solidarity underground.

At present they have 50 and yesterday began putting feelers to the small parties. As expected Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and the chief architect of the Lebanon war has quickly emerged as an influential power behind the scenes.

FT chief decides to step down

By Derek Pain

The chief executive of the Financial Times, Mr Alan Hare, is to step down on October 1. But he will remain chairman of the newspaper until next spring, when he will reach retirement age of 65.

Taking over as chief executive will be Mr Frank Barlow, aged 53. He is general manager of Westminster Press which, like the Financial Times, is controlled by the S. Pearson and Son conglomerate, which has diverse interests including merchant banking and engineering.

Mr Hare's decision to step down comes less than a month after the ending of a damaging ten-week stoppage at the Financial Times. It cost the newspaper more than £1m in lost revenue after taking into account costs saved, such as unpaid wages.

Mr Hare said he had decided to end his commitment in two stages to make the change over as smooth as possible. Last night's announcement, he said, would have been made a month earlier had the strike not taken place.

Mr Hare will not be severing completely his connections with the Pearson group. He was appointed president of Chateau Latour, the French vineyard controlled by the group, in June. His other appointments include directorships of the Reuters news agency and of the Economist.

Other Financial Times appointments from October 1 are: Mr Richard McClean, managing director (marketing), to be deputy chief executive, and Mr David Palmer, deputy editor, to be general manager. Mr Richard Lambert, the newspaper's chief New York correspondent, will become deputy editor.



Mr Hare: planned earlier announcement

Israel in chaos over Begin succession

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel was plunged into political chaos yesterday as initial attempts to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the retiring Likud Prime Minister, failed and the Labour opposition launched a series of unofficial contacts in the hope of being asked to form the next government.

Managers of the Likud coalition parties acknowledged that they were involved in a race against time to find a new leader before Mr Begin submits his letter of resignation (which is already written) to President Herzog, who then has to call on one Knesset member to try to form a new administration.

Only if the Likud has a new leader supported by a viable majority can Labour, the largest single party in the 120-seat Parliament, be prevented from trying to form its own left-wing coalition.

It is believed that Mr Begin will resign formally by the Jewish New Year next Wednesday at the latest. Within a few hours of Mr Begin making his decision to step down a fierce political struggle erupted between the two main contestants for his job as leader of the Herut Party, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister who started favourite, and Mr David Levy, the Sephardic Deputy Prime Minister. The leader of Herut automatically heads the Likud.

Yesterday afternoon, it was announced that at a private meeting whose chairman was Yaacov Meridor, Mr Begin's closest confidant and his predecessor as commander of the Irgun Jewish terror group, that the two contestants were both insistent on submitting their candidacies to a meeting tonight of the 900-strong central committee of the party. Its decision is expected to be final.

Although Mr Shamir, aged 67, a former Knesset Speaker and one of the Cabinet's leading hawks who opposed the Camp David treaty has emerged as the clear favourite among seven of the eight Herut ministers in the present government, this does not ensure his success. Mr Levy had all along been pressing for a showdown in the central committee where he is said to have greater grassroots support.

The fact that the two contestants were unable to reach a private deal before the crucial meeting has encouraged those in the Labour Party who believe they may have an outside chance of tempting away sufficient coalition deputies to be able to command the necessary 61 seats in the Knesset.

At present they have 50 and yesterday began putting feelers to the small parties. As expected Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and the chief architect of the Lebanon war has quickly emerged as an influential power behind the scenes.

World 'must find oil alternative'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Falling oil reserves and a decline in the discovery of new oilfields should lead to planning for alternative energy sources, the World Petroleum Congress was told in London yesterday. Present estimates show that the world's oil could run out in 66 years.

World oil reserves now stand at 103 billion tonnes with the prospect of exploration bringing total reserves to 192 billion tonnes, according to Mr Charles D Master of the US Geological Survey. Annual oil production is running at 2.9 million tonnes.

Mr Masters said: "There is an immense quantity of conventional crude oil in the world. Our capacity for consumption, however, is perfectly capable of challenging that immensity. Though there is much yet to be discovered and produced, there is no room for complacency."

An American team of 18 geologists estimates that of the 79 billion tonnes still to be discovered, 2.1 billion tonnes will be found in the North Sea.

N Sea investment, page 15

Gunmen hijack Romanian cargo ship

Nicosia (AP) - Unknown gunmen commandeered a Romanian cargo ship in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

Port authorities in Cyprus said they did not have the name of the ship, and that there was no information as to where it was heading.

Tripoli is only about 100 miles south-east of the southern Cyprus port of Larnaca, and has been the scene of frequent fighting in recent weeks between pro and anti-Syrian Lebanese Muslim groups.

Bravery award for Navy diver

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A Royal Navy deep-sea diver books and cryptographic equipment.

The citation says that "though working in extremely unpleasant, hazardous and dark conditions, and despite becoming entangled on two separate occasions with hanging debris, Harrison persevered with the task, putting himself at grave personal risk."

The action was in depths of more than 300 feet, and was carried out by a team of 27 naval divers. The operation was conducted from a chartered vessel, the 7,000 ton Sessa Seaspeed. It involved

Advertisement for VICTORIA WINE featuring a bottle of RIOJA wine, 'Wine of the month', '2.59 PER BOTTLE', and 'BRITAIN'S LEADING WINE MERCHANT'.

Vertical sidebar containing various news snippets and a crossword puzzle grid.

Handwritten signatures and scribbles at the bottom of the page.



Commentary
The beginning of September customarily marks the resumption of active politics after the summer break.

Separate blast linked to Middle East conflict
Police theory of grudge bombings at Oppenheimer properties

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter
Scotland Yard anti-terrorist experts suspect that South African politics or a grudge are the motives behind bombings in London.



Aftermath: Woodstock Street in central London yesterday as police investigated the explosion outside an Israeli bank. (Photograph: John Voos).

Heffer backs move to break up union block votes

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent
Mr Eric Heffer, the Labour leadership candidate who has won the backing of the party's hard left, yesterday supported a change in the law which would break up the power of trade union block votes in future leadership contests.

Empty wards fear over job targets

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent
New hospitals and redevelopment of existing ones may have to remain empty unless health ministers agree to revise their manpower targets.

Blacking threat to Vauxhall

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent
Vauxhall car workers yesterday stepped up their threat to "black" the company's car imports in a bid to win an improvement on a 5 per cent pay offer.

Rate curbs sought in Scotland

From Our Correspondent Glasgow
The Secretary of State for Scotland Mr George Younger, is seeking new powers that will grant him even greater control over local authority spending.

Telecom in cable TV consortia

British Telecom has disclosed that it has agreed to participate in nine consortia which have applied to the Home Office for cable television franchises.

Churchill role for Thatcher

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, looking fit after her holiday but still showing signs of her eye operation earlier this month, claimed in Scotland yesterday that her government was following the policies of Sir Winston Churchill and she hoped one day that she would be compared with him.

Plutonium dumping plans 'leaked'

Government departments have discussed plans to dump highly radioactive plutonium waste from the nuclear weapons research centre at Aldermaston, Berkshire, into the sea, it was claimed yesterday.

Sinclair renews car option

Sir Clive Sinclair, the electronics inventor, has extended his option to buy the former De Lorean car factory in Northern Ireland. Sir Clive is interested in buying the main part of the Derry plant in Belfast to assemble the electric car he is developing.

Illegal auction dealers fined

A trail of estate cars loaded with valuable led a police expert in antiques, by chance, to an illegal auction on an isolated beach where dealers were selling valuable antiques bought cheaply earlier that day at a country house sale.

Murder charge

A youth aged 16 appeared before a juvenile court at Rawtenstall, Lancashire, yesterday, accused of the murder of Mrs Ivy Bottoms, aged 67, of Haslingden. He was remanded in custody for eight days.

Drugs remand

Three men, charged with illegally importing drugs, were remanded in custody until Tuesday by Newquay magistrates yesterday.

Foam fights fire

Firemen yesterday used 70,000 gallons of foam in an attempt to smother the Amoco oil refinery blaze at Milford Haven in West Wales.

Money box theft

Thieves hitched a tractor unit to a British Rail container packed with £40,000 of coins and drove it out of the freightliner depot in Southampton yesterday.

Storage Containers advertisement with prices slashed and contact information for Winchester.

Grandmaster trio in chess lead

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent
A spate of early draws in round eight of the Lloyds Bank masters tournament in London yesterday meant that players were feeling the strain of playing continuously without a rest day.

Drink laws 'should cover glue-sniffing'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent
The offence of being drunk in a public place should be extended to cover intoxication from other substances, including solvents, the Magistrates' Association says in its annual report.

Advertisement for authors wanted by N.Y. Publisher.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.



# Postal delays persist despite rise in complaints

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

More people complained to the Post Office Users National Council about the service they received from the Post Office last year than in any of the two previous years and yet the corporation still has a poor record of service.

The disclosures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. In the last financial year, ending in March, the council says it continued to press the Post Office about the poor quality of service, "which remained disappointing despite management's attempts to get improvements".

The council handled 11,000 complaints from customers of the post and telephone services. Postal complaints totalled 3,744, an increase on 3,115 (1982) and 3,184 (1981). The bulk of the complaints to the council were about delays, which totalled 849, a rise of about 28 per cent.

The report says: "Complaints about delays recorded a particularly sharp upturn in June and September, reflecting in turn the rail strikes and the TUC Day of Action, and again in January, 1983, when the extended new year holiday caused a collection and sorting build-up which adversely affected delivery efficiency for several days after".

Reports of impending closures of post offices has led to a large

volume of complaints. The council concludes: "Such closures can bring hardship to sections of the community and the problems created continue to be a matter of serious concern to us".

The Post Office is conducting a survey on its post offices and sub-post offices.

The number of complaints about telephone service, according to the council's report has dropped remarkably to 7,487 from 11,001 in 1982 and 13,333 in 1981. Complaints about accounts total 2,963, which is almost a third of what they were two years ago.

The council said complaints largely involved delays in getting faults repaired. But it noted that statistics from British Telecom showed that nationally the percentage of faults cleared by the end of the next working day had risen from just over 58 per cent in 1979/80 to 85 per cent in 1982/83.

However a number of complaints were received from subscribers unable to get the new telephone handsets advertised by British Telecom.

The council said it received several complaints from customers unable to get some of those instruments either because there were delays with British Telecom's suppliers or that British Telecom's local sales staff knew nothing about them.

# Man found dead after gun siege

A four-hour armed siege ended yesterday when a man was found to have killed himself after shooting and critically wounding his daughter aged 15.

The shooting came after a domestic dispute that broke out in the early hours of the morning at the family's maisonette in Priors Croft, just off the High Street in Old Woking, Surrey.

Mrs Shirley Frost, aged 48, ran for help to a neighbour with blood streaming from her head after being struck by a soda siphon. Mr Ronald Frost, then her daughter Carla, aged nine, ran out saying that her father, had a gun.

Neighbours found Mrs Frost's daughter Carol lying shot on the kitchen floor. Mrs Frost and the two girls were rushed by ambulance to hospital as police cordoned off the area warning neighbours to remain indoors.

As a siege began Carol was transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, where she underwent an emergency operation for gunshot wounds. A hospital spokesman said her condition was critical.

At the council estate where the family lived 12 marksmen from the Surrey police firearms support unit took up strategic positions as senior officers tried to make contact with Mr Frost, using a loud hailer.

But there was no response and after a bang that could have been a shot, the police moved into the house and found Mr Frost, who held a firearms licence, lying dead in the bedroom with a gun by his side.



Mixed effects: The Burrator reservoir, serving the Plymouth area, which is down to 30 days' supply of water and (right) a dwarf rose thrown up by the "greenhouse" atmosphere being inspected by Mr Raymond Roads, a gardener from Wimborne, Dorset.

# Downpour after drought meeting

By Craig Seton

Heavy rain fell over Plymouth yesterday as the Southwest Water Authority decided to seek government approval to ban the use of water in a wide range of activities in the city and across much of Devon because of the drought.

The authority is to ask Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, for permission to ban the watering of parks recreation grounds, sports and playing fields, race and golf courses, and for the replenishment of private swimming pools and ponds, if that should become necessary.

The ban would also apply to car washing equipment, the cleaning of public buildings and the use of water in ornamental fountains and cascades. If the ban is applied it would affect hundreds of thousands of people in Plymouth and north, mid and west Devon.

The Burrator reservoir on Dartmoor, which supplies Plymouth, is down to 43 per cent of capacity and has only 30 days supply left. The level has not fallen so low since the drought of 1976 when standpipes had to be erected in parts of the West Country.

After deciding on the emergency measures, members of the authority left the meeting to be greeted by a heavy downpour. With depressions forming over the Atlantic more rain was forecast.

Forecast: Back Page

# Give cyclists better deal, engineers say

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's highway engineers, traditionally regarded as protagonists of the motor-car and the enemies of pedal-power, yesterday called for widespread improvements in road design and traffic management to benefit cyclists.

In a 60-page report, *Providing for the Cyclist*, the Institution of Highway Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers advocated more and better cycle routes, greater mixing of cyclists and pedestrians on footpaths and crossings, and more experiments with converting disused railways lines for cyclists and allowing them to ride the "wrong way" up one-way streets.

The future of cycling, according to the institution, lies largely on the existing road network, not segregated tracks. The width, quality and maintenance of roads should be improved and better parking provided. Cyclists' safety, it adds, "should not depend of cycling in the gutter".

The institution, which represents 8,700 engineers employed by councils, central government and consultants, yesterday described its guidelines as an "important step forward" in the recognition of cyclists. It says that its recommendations can be achieved at "modest cost" and that they will reduce accidents, and encourage new cyclists on to city streets.

Mr Kenneth Huddart, the chief

traffic engineer with the Greater London Council and chairman of the group that produced the report, said the majority of local authorities had done "nothing special" for cyclists. Experience showed that the number of cyclists more than doubled when facilities were improved.

Mr Michael Hardy, the president of the institution and county surveyor for Hertfordshire, added: "We are trying to twist the arms of elected members, engineers, local authorities and central government to widen the use of facilities for cyclist."

Cost-benefit analysis by the GLC has indicated that a £12,000 investment in a mile of cycle-route would offer value for money if it was used by 100 bicycles a day.

The report says cycling saves energy, is healthy and pollution-free and is a viable alternative for trips to work. But casualty rates remain "obstinately high", with 90 per cent of accidents occurring in urban areas. Cycle traffic has doubled in recent years and further increases without better roads design could significantly increase accident rates.

The report was welcomed yesterday by cycling bodies including the Cyclists' Touring Club, the largest cycling body in the country with 35,000 members, and the London Cycling Campaign.

# Getting through your first few days at college may require a little application.

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# Council overspending: 3 Capital cohesion that cuts could corrode

By David Walker

Approached either from the south across the Tyne gorge or from the north by the town moor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne shows little of the decay and seediness visible in the inner areas of Manchester or Liverpool. When those two cities were convulsed in the summer of 1981, the Tyne was quiet.

The two facts are connected, city officials say. Newcastle's appearance and social cohesion are the products of a generation of relatively high municipal spending. "We have done so much over the past 20 years that our housing stock looks reasonable". Mr Jeremy Beecham, the council leader, said.

Realistically, he said, there would not be "blood on the streets" if the city council in Newcastle cut back its spending to the levels desired by the Government. But there would, over time, be profound damage to the Tyneiders' ability to cope, for example with their historically high levels of unemployment. There would at the least be a "tremendous upsurge in vandalism among unemployed youngsters at present provided for by various city programmes", Mr Beecham said.

Newcastle is an unabashed high spender with one of the highest rate poundages in the country. This year it is spending 30 per cent more than the Government says it needs; over 4 per cent above its control target. The northern region of the Confederation of British Industry, based in the city, raises a continuous outcry about the impact of rates on business.

The city's case, which is to be presented to the Government over coming months, is that Whitehall formulae have consistently failed to take into account that Newcastle is more than just another urban district. It is a regional capital, with all the associated costs.

Officials in the palatial town hall, built in the era of Mr T. Dean Smith, a once-celebrated Newcastle councillor run through the

list. The city has the only haemophilia unit in the north of England and requires social services backup. The city houses a regional reference library, paid for out of the rates. People from Scotland and the North arrive at the central station and need housing; Newcastle spends on regional theatres and tourism. None of these costs are recognized in the Government's "grant-related expenditure assessment" and Newcastle is penalized.

Beyond that, Newcastle, Labour-held since local government reorganization, is unquestionably a generous provider. It spends more per pupil than most other metropolitan districts; similarly in social services, it is at the top of the leagues for employing social workers and providing home helps. Its extensive housing schemes include the famous Byker project, a huge wall of flats where there is a waiting list to get in.

Mr Beecham is a barrister, who unlike his municipal colleagues to the south, keeps up a full time job; he is a well-known moderate, outspoken within the Association of Metropolitan Authorities against more left-wing socialists.

But he is adamant that Newcastle's high level of provision is justified by the social circumstances of Tyneside with its 18 per cent unemployment and precarious reliance on declining industries. "It is not the business of the Government to say what individual councils ought to spend", he said.

If Newcastle had to reduce its spending, and the gap between its current outlays and the Government's target is only about £6m out of a £125m budget, council house rents would have to increase and council employees would go, mainly in education. Mr Cyril Davies, the chief executive said that the fine looks of Newcastle would also suffer. "It would be a much shabbier city if we just stood back."

Concluded

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# More than a million Filipinos mourn at Aquino's funeral

Manila (Reuters) - More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday for the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader, in a display of grief which developed into a peaceful demonstration of opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos.

The garlanded coffin, borne on a 10-wheel vehicle, inched along a 15-mile route from the Aquino family parish church in north Manila to a cemetery south of the capital.

The crowds surged alongside, between, before and behind the cavalcade of mourners in a procession that stretched for about two miles and brought much of the central area to a standstill.

The journey took nearly 12 hours and a police officer said one million was a conservative estimate for the mourners.

Some of the mourners carried placards reading: "No reconciliation under the Marcos regime", "Marcos is a great liar" and "A bullet will never subdue the principles Ninoy (Aquino) upheld". Others said: "Ninoy you are not alone" and "Marcos you are alone".

Police kept a deliberately low profile, as though riot squads were on standby in case of trouble. By nightfall, with the cortege still moving at little more than a walking pace, no serious incidents had been reported.

At exactly 7pm people threw their car horns, and banged tin cans, pots and pans and rubbish

bin lids in many parts of the city in a "noise barrage" protest against Aquino's murder.

The former senator was shot 10 days ago as he stepped off the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines after three years of self-imposed exile in the United States.

Police yesterday identified the alleged killer as Orlando Galman, aged 33. They described him as a notorious killer and hired gunman with underworld connections and perhaps links to subversive elements.

But Mr Cesar Virata, the Prime Minister, said: "Government elements" could also have been involved in the killing.

Mr Enrique Ferrasido, the chief justice, named to head an official inquiry into the murder, said Mr Galman's family had been taken into protective custody.

The mourners at the funeral included students, office workers, labourers, civil servants and Filipinos from outside Manila, many singing hymns and patriotic songs.

Yellow-bunting decked trees and lamp-posts, spectators showed the procession with confetti, torn from the yellow pages of telephone directories. Many people wore yellow clothing or carried yellow umbrellas.

For Filipinos and followers of Aquino, yellow recalls the song "The Yellow Ribbon" about a prisoner returning home from jail.

Aquino had spent seven years in military jail and was under

sentence of death for murder, subversion and illegal possession of arms when President Marcos let him go to the United States for heart surgery in 1980.

At least six assassins, two acting chiefs of mission, many senior diplomats and a capacity congregation of at least 10,000 attended the funeral service at the Santo Domingo church near Aquino's family home.

But there were apparently no representatives from the Marcos Government or from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia, which, with the Philippines, make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

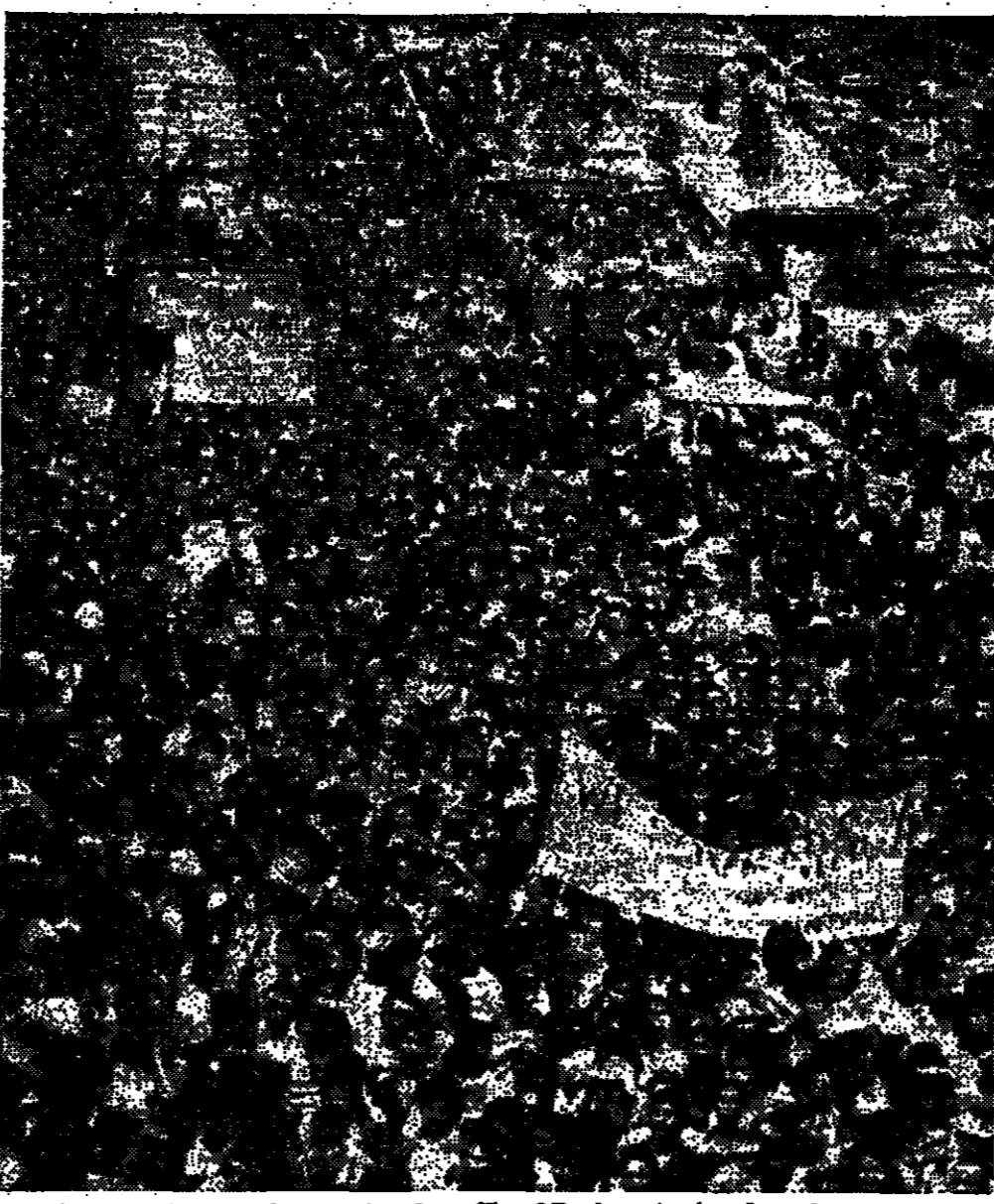
Cardinal Jaime Sin, leader of the country's 42 million Roman Catholics, led the funeral service, pleading for peace.

"With his death, let us not bind ourselves to the fact that he came back not for confrontation but for reconciliation", he said.

"There is an atmosphere of repression and a climate of fear... his death personified Filipino courage in the face of oppression".

Outside the church Mr Diosdado Macapagal, who preceded Mr Marcos as President until 1964, said: "I have never in my life seen anything like this. Marcos should realize that it is time for him to go but of course he will not."

Mr Ramon Magsaysay, the son of another former President, said: "I think it is about time the Government listened to the people who are voting with their feet at this funeral."



Final farewell: Thousands escorting the coffin of Benigno Aquino through central Manila yesterday. The funeral march took 12 hours.

# Nigeria chief denies raising private army

Lagos (Reuters) - The Governor of Nigeria's western Ogun state has denied charges by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) that his government had recruited a private army to foment trouble during the country's series of five elections.

Chief Bisi Onabanjo, of the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), who was returned for a second four-year term as governor in an election on August 13, said on television on Tuesday that his state had no private army, but a security unit set up in 1981.

The NPN secretary-general, Mr Uba Ahmed, said on Saturday that the recruitment and training of the "men of destruction" was part of a masterplan by the UPN to resort to violence in the event of losing this year's elections.

Chief Onabanjo said the existence of the security unit was known to President Shugu Shagari, the national police chief and the head of the national security organization.

The unit became necessary because the national police command in Ogun was found to be reluctant to provide or found to be capable of providing adequate protection to government functionaries, properties and institutions on a number of occasions," he said.

Ogun is the home state of the UPN leader, Chief Obaifemi Awolowo, who lost to Mr Shagari in the presidential poll on August

6. The UPN reaffirmed its control of Ogun and Lagos states in four of the five elections already concluded.

Violence erupted in the other two UPN-controlled western states of Oyo and Ondo during governors' elections.

Police said 33 people were killed in the Oyo violence, but the state's NPN leader told reporters in the state capital of Ibadan on Tuesday that more than 100 people had died.

Elections to the Senate, the House of Representatives and state assemblies have been postponed indefinitely in the two states.

In the latest results of Saturday's House of Representatives election, President Shagari's NPN appeared set to win overwhelming control of the 450-member lower house.

With 277 returns in from the 17 states where voting took place, the NPN had taken 186 seats, 18 more than its total share in the lower house after army-supervised elections in 1979.

The UPN was trailing with 31 seats. Balloting has still to take place in the two western states where the UPN won most constituencies in 1979.

In the elections already completed this month, President Shagari won a second four-year term, while the NPN took 13 state governorships and 55 of the 85 Senate seats contested.

# Carter gives backing to Mondale

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Mr Walter Mondale has received the endorsement of Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President whose deputy he was, in his attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidential elections next year.

Mr Mondale, the front-runner among six Democratic hopefuls but has been losing ground in recent months to Senator John Glenn. The Mondale camp hope Mr Carter's support will improve their candidate's standing in the south where he is now trailing behind Senator Glenn.

Although Mr Mondale was delighted with the fulsome praise which Mr Carter showered upon him, his endorsement by the former President could prove a mixed blessing.

It is widely believed that Mr Mondale's association with the unpopular Carter Administration is a major weakness in his candidacy.

Yesterday Mr Carter graciously assisted his former vice-president by saying: "It would be a mistake for him politically or otherwise to be closely associated with me or too much dependent on the policies I espoused as President."

He added that Mr Mondale offered a good balance of progressive views on social and domestic issues and conservatism on fiscal policies.

# US 'feared De Lorean success'

From Iver Davis Los Angeles

American Embassy officials in London feared that if Mr John De Lorean was successful in making sports cars in Belfast it would be a severe blow to the American car market, according to secret cables made public here yesterday.

The cables were filed in Los Angeles Federal Court as part of Mr De Lorean's efforts to show that Washington pressured the British Government to destroy his sports car operations. They were made public under the Freedom of Information Act and showed that in 1978 the American Embassy in Britain worried that Mr De Lorean's car company would give him an unfair advantage over American car manufacturers.

They said: "It is the embassy's initial view that the United Kingdom government payments also would directly benefit De Lorean car exports, permitting lower prices, and give them an unfair Government-financed advantage over competitors in the US market. It was suggested that the American Government should privately protest about the loans to the British Government although there was no indication this was ever done."

Mr De Lorean, who is due to stand trial on cocaine smuggling charges, was being kept under close scrutiny by the State Department, according to the cables.

# Ulf and his one-armed bandit fight the law

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A special committee of the Swedish Parliament will be convened this month to discuss the remarkable case of 14-year-old Ulf Linde who wants permission to install a "one-armed bandit" in his bedroom.

Ulf bought the machine from abroad in January this year. It is damaged, unable to take coins or pay out jackpots. Ulf wanted it "for decoration". He said: "I've always wanted one - I don't know why."

However, one-armed bandits are banned under Sweden's strict anti-gambling laws, so to be on the safe side Ulf telephoned the police in his home town of Umea to ask their advice. The police referred him to the county council for the province of Vasterbotten. The county council passed the matter over to another body, the Lottery Authority, which issues licences for the limited forms of gambling that still exist in Sweden.

The authority's chairman, Mr Johan Palm, was outraged. "It would be the same as applying for leave to operate a still in order to manufacture alcohol at home", he said. Permission was duly refused.

Ulf doggedly took the matter to government level. He appealed to the Ministry of Education, claiming the machine to be a museum piece.

A senior civil servant, Mrs Angela Gardner, has now been ordered to draw up a preliminary report on the matter for submission to a government committee which will decide the bandit's fate later this month.

The affair has taken nine months to get this far. "I'm still hopeful," said Ulf.

# Jesuits begin search for a new leader

From Peter Nichols, Rome

About 220 Jesuits from all over the world formally begin the task today of seeking a new general to lead the Roman Catholic Church's most formidable religious order.

Their next head, who succeeds the ailing Father Pedro Arrupe, will face the delicate task of reestablishing an acceptable working relationship with the Pope. Father Arrupe did not have such a relationship and also is now partially incapacitated as the consequence of a stroke. His resignation, the first in the order's history by a general, will take place on Saturday, when solemn homage will be paid to his work.

The general congregation to elect his successor is the thirty-third in the nearly 450 years of the Order's existence and the only one to take place at the time when the Jesuits are ruled by a delegate personally appointed by the Pope.

Father Paolo Dezza, the octogenarian chosen by the Pope to superintend the affairs of the 26,000 Jesuits, said yesterday that he thought the new General would emerge after about a fortnight. There are no official candidates and the successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority.

He himself foresaw a General who would bring "greater reflection and penetration". A more thoughtful generalship was the implication after the active and controversial leadership of the Spaniard Father Arrupe.

At the time of the appointment of Father Dezza in October 1981 the Pope also named Father Giuseppe Pittau as his deputy, Father Pittau, who is himself a candidate, says that they should look for a person who loves Jesuit traditions but would know how to act in a creative way to meet modern challenges.

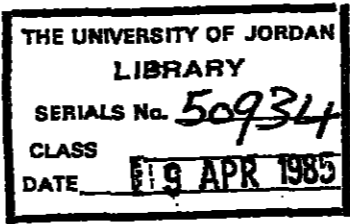
The proverbial prudence of the Jesuits (recommended by St Ignatius himself, the first General, as a quality essential for a head of the order) reduces talk of candidates but half a dozen names are heard with some frequency. That of Father Pittau is usually the first, although his election could be taken as meaning too much readiness to make the Pope happy.

The same would be said of Father Dezza, who has the additional disadvantage of his venerable age. St Ignatius maintained that a general should be neither too young or too old. With becoming modesty, Father Dezza has pointed out that at the age of 82 he has little more to look forward to.

He himself gave a clue to another name, that of Father Roberto Tucci, Director-General of Vatican Radio and organizer of the Pope's journeys.

Leading article, page 11

In the first few days as a student, you'll find you cannot live by brains alone. You'll need money. And to turn your grant cheque into money you'll need a bank account. But if you wait until you get there before you open one, your spending power in those first critical days may be somewhat limited. It takes time to deal with applications, time to print your name on a cheque book, time to clear grant cheques. Fortunately, time is one thing you've got right now. Complete the coupon, send it back to us at least two weeks before your term begins (but after you've heard you qualify for an LEA grant) and your cheque card, cheque book and Servicecard will be waiting when you arrive. You'll find us easily enough—we have more on-campus branches than any other bank. Our Current Account banking service is commission free, of course, while you remain a student, and for six months after, even if you're overdrawn. And for starters, we'll even put a fiver in your account. You should get through that without too much difficulty.



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# Malaysia losing battle to curb powers of King and sultans

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Signs are increasing that the Malaysian Government may have misjudged when it rushed through Parliament last month constitutional amendments which would effectively reduce the monarch's power to delay legislation and to declare an emergency.

## Parade to mark independence

Malaysia yesterday celebrated the twenty-sixth anniversary of independence from British colonial rule, with an armed forces parade in Kuala Lumpur attended by several thousand people.

The King took the salute at the march past of the three branches of the defence forces and representatives of the multiracial population including civil servants and students.

Since the Bill also increased the number of parliamentary and state assembly seats and removed the Privy Council as the final court of appeal in civil cases, there was plenty to be debated.

Under the amendments, a Bill would become law 15 days after it came before the King whether he assented or not, and he could no longer declare a state of emergency, power given to him only two years ago.

A principal objection among the politically dominant Malay community is that it is theoretically possible, now, for Malaysia to become a republic within 15 days.

Malay-dominated federal and state governments. The rulers, to a man, feel threatened by the substance of the amendments and would oppose them on procedural grounds.

The King is unlikely to give his assent: there is talk he might be deposed if he did. The Government may wait until after April next year, when his term expires, and introduce the Bill again, thought probably in a different form.

The nine state governments - four others have federally-appointed governors - have been unable to call their state assemblies to pass similar laws because of opposition from the rulers.

One reason for the amendments was the fear that the exuberant and independent-minded Sultans of Pahang and Johore, who under the rules stand the best chance to be the next two kings, could cause difficulties during their reigns.

But palace sources say the sultans would have suggested a way out of that without amending the constitution.

The rulers meet in special session next month to discuss the problem.



Courting arrest: Guizar Begum, a woman union leader, just before her arrest at a Karachi court. She was protesting with lawyers against martial law

## Prison population doubles in Sind

The jail population in the Pakistan province of Sind has increased by about 3,500 since August 14 when the opposition launched its campaign against martial law.

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad. The Karachi administration is said to have been caught out by the disappearance from hospital of Mir Ghans Bux Bizenjo, the Baluch leader of the Pakistan National Party, who had been receiving medical treatment while in detention.

For the present agitation, has however, urged his followers to join the struggle. Meanwhile the Jamaat Islami leaders who met general Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, on the eve of his present visit to Turkey, are considering street protests to counter the MRD campaign against martial law.

# Hongkong reserves claimed by China

Hongkong (AFP) - A senior Chinese official was quoted yesterday as saying that Britain must unconditionally return all Hongkong's reserves, about \$4bn (about £2.7bn) after China resumes sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

The official, of the New China news agency here, was quoted by the *Oriental Daily News* as saying that the reserves would then be used to stabilize the Hongkong dollar on the world money market.

But a Hongkong spokesman commented: "As has been stated by the Secretary for Monetary Affairs, Mr Douglas Hye on numerous occasions, Hongkong's reserves are controlled by the Hongkong Government, not the United Kingdom Government."

The Chinese official was also quoted as saying that the reserves belonged to the Hongkong people and China had already said at talks with Britain that the reserves must be returned to the Government of Hongkong formed after 1997.

The government spokesman, noting that talks on Hongkong's future are confidential, said that yesterday's report suggested that the British public opinion and sound out the British Government.

According to the report, the official said that after China's resumption of sovereignty Hongkong people would be free to travel on Hongkong-issued Chinese passports, and that the legal system would remain unchanged with the Supreme Court to hear final appeals.

He also "guaranteed" that the Chinese Government would give the new Hongkong government all-out support in its foreign trade and economy.

Hongkong in mass exodus if the Sino-British talks do not give guarantees of personal freedom and independence (Richard Hughes writes).

The president of the Hongkong Medical Association, Dr Dennis Yuen predicts that "at least 80 per cent of Hongkong's 5,000 doctors will leave if the talks end unfavourably."

He added: "Some doctors who are in the process of applying for resident status in Western countries have already sent their wives and children abroad while they maintain a wait-and-see attitude."

"Others are already getting their immigration papers to go overseas. Some have bought passports from the Dominican Republic." The president of the Hongkong Institute of Architects, Mr Edward Ho, said that many architects were already talking about leaving.

"If there is an exodus of architects, it will not come in 1996 but much sooner and probably even in the next few years. It is an urgent problem for architects and not just a matter of politics."

The former chairman of the Hongkong Bar Association, Mr Martin Lee, QC, has already caused a warning that most lawyers can be expected to leave Hongkong before 1997 "if they get no guarantee from China of independence of the judiciary."

Another controversy - which ironically weakens Hongkong's legal claims - is listed high on the programme of the Commonwealth law conference which opens here next month: the transition of Hongkong laws into Cantonese.

Exodus feared: Doctors, architects and lawyers are expected to leave when half of them are not even written in the Chinese language.

## Police clear estate of protesting workers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

For the sixth time in as many days, the Guardia Civil bodily removed dozens of unemployed farm labourers from a large privately owned estate near Seville, as a union-backed campaign to improve the lot of Spain's landless farm workers gained momentum.

Other actions occurring just about every day in Western Andalusia include sit-ins by jobless workers on main roads, the occupation of churches and town halls and protest marches. A plan to block national highways and railways in the south was dropped after Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, remarked publicly that such actions would be considered illegal.

Prime movers of the campaign are the Farm Workers' Union, a left-wing organization whose members damaged farm machinery when the Centre Party was in power but have shown more restraint under the Socialist Government. The farm federation of the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, Spain's biggest trade union, is also active. The Socialist-led General Labour Union has played a predictably minor role in the campaign to embarrass the Government into doing something about endemic unemployment in the area where Señor Gonzalez once practiced as a labour lawyer.

The immediate objective is to get more money out of a make-work programme funded by the Government to carry out small public works projects in poor villages. They want the rule that limits the number of members of a single family who collect such money to be waived, and they want to be allowed to work more days per month. Their long-term aim is to force the adoption of an agrarian reform programme.

In the meantime, the Farm Workers' Union insists that farm owners should be obliged to hire at least one worker for every 80 acres. The union also wants landowners to switch to more labour-intensive crops and do away with most machinery.

Next Monday leaders of the Workers' Commissions will head a march of jobless workers which is to set out from Badolosa, near Seville, and walk through much of Andalusia for the following 35 days. On September 10 the Farm Workers' Union will open its congress in Marinaleda, also near Seville, a town which made the headlines under the previous regime because of its repeated hunger strikes designed to emphasize poverty in the area.

## Daughter locked up in love tangle

Palermo (AP) - Sicily's Anti-Mafia police, acting on a tip from a desperate lover, freed a 23-year-old woman who was locked up semi-nude by her parents for wishing to marry a divorced man.

Police in the town of Carini, nine miles east of here, found Signorina Eugenia Nobile in the home of a neighbour where she had been held for two days. The woman, who had been stripped to her underclothes to prevent her escape, was put there by her parents because she refused to renounce her plans to marry Signor Salvatore Grigoli, a 29-year-old bricklayer in the process of divorce. "My parents consider it a dishonour to marry a divorced man," she told her rescuers.

Police arrested 44-year-old Signora Grazia Sanfilippo for holding the woman captive. "For doing a favour to my friends by taking in their dishonourable daughter I have been arrested. It doesn't make sense," Signora Sanfilippo said. Signorina Nobile's parents.

## Jailed tax rebel could topple Danish Cabinet

Mr Morgens Glistrup, tax lawyer and leader of the anti-tax Progress Party, went to prison near Elsinore yesterday to serve a three-year sentence for gross tax evasion. The sentence poses a serious threat to the life of Denmark's eleven-month old Conservative-Liberal coalition.

Mr Glistrup, aged 57, was sentenced in the Supreme Court last June at the end of a nine-year legal fight. In addition to the prison sentence he was ordered to pay 6m kroner (\$410,000) in fines, back taxes and legal costs. He was subsequently expelled from the Danish Parliament.

The American trained lawyer leaves behind him a wrangling, deeply split party, embittered by the sentence to its founder, which looks like bringing down the government at an extraordinary summer session of the Folketing (Parliament) to be held on September 9.

## £2.2bn bill for floods in Spain

Madrid (Reuter) - Damage caused by weekend floods which killed at least 31 people in northern Spain has been provisionally estimated at about £2.2 billion, regional officials said here.

The death toll has been revised downwards from an original figure of 37 given by rescue workers.

The preliminary estimate included damage to roads and rail links, industries and businesses as well as crop and livestock losses. No breakdown of the figures was immediately available.

About 26,000 people in the Basque country alone could lose their jobs because of wrecked factories and businesses. The Basque country and Cantabria, worst hit by the heaviest August rains in 20 years, were expected to be declared disaster areas by the Cabinet in Madrid.

In Bayonne, France, police said they had found the body of a 71-year-old woman in a caravan, bringing to six the French death toll in the floods. The body was discovered in the Pyrenean town of Saint Jean de Luz.

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Counting the cost in Lebanon

Battles in Beirut force Reagan to review role of the Marines

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The fighting in and around Beirut is forcing the Reagan Administration to review the role and size of the US contingent in the multinational peace-keeping force.

Although President Reagan has told Congressional leaders that the 1,200 Marines have only been involved in "sporadic fighting" and their status therefore remains unchanged, it has become clear that if hostilities between Lebanese factions continue at their present level, the US may have to consider sending more troops.

Saying that he did not know how long the Marines would have to remain there, he wrote: "I believe that the continued presence of these US forces in Lebanon is essential to the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon."

Although the renewed fighting has not forced the President to abandon his holiday in California, he has spent much of his time during the past three days conferring by telephone with aides staying at a nearby hotel and with a "special stipulation group" which has been "set up in Washington."

US accused by Russia of blackmail of Israel

Geneva (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday accused the United States of trying to blackmail Arab states into accepting President Reagan's Middle-East peace plan.

In a speech to the UN conference on Palestine, Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, the head of the Soviet delegation, yesterday said that the Reagan plan was aimed solely at Israeli domination and Arab capitulation.

Chouf pull-back delay angers Israeli troops

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Widespread discontent has been reported among the 2,000 Israeli troops based in Lebanon's troubled Chouf mountains since Tuesday's surprise government decision once again to delay their redeployment to a more secure front line further south along the Awail River.

News of anger and concern at the postponement - the third in a matter of weeks - was disclosed by Israeli military correspondents who had been taken to the area in preparation for the pullback, which had been scheduled to begin at first light yesterday.

Falklanders to put case at UN

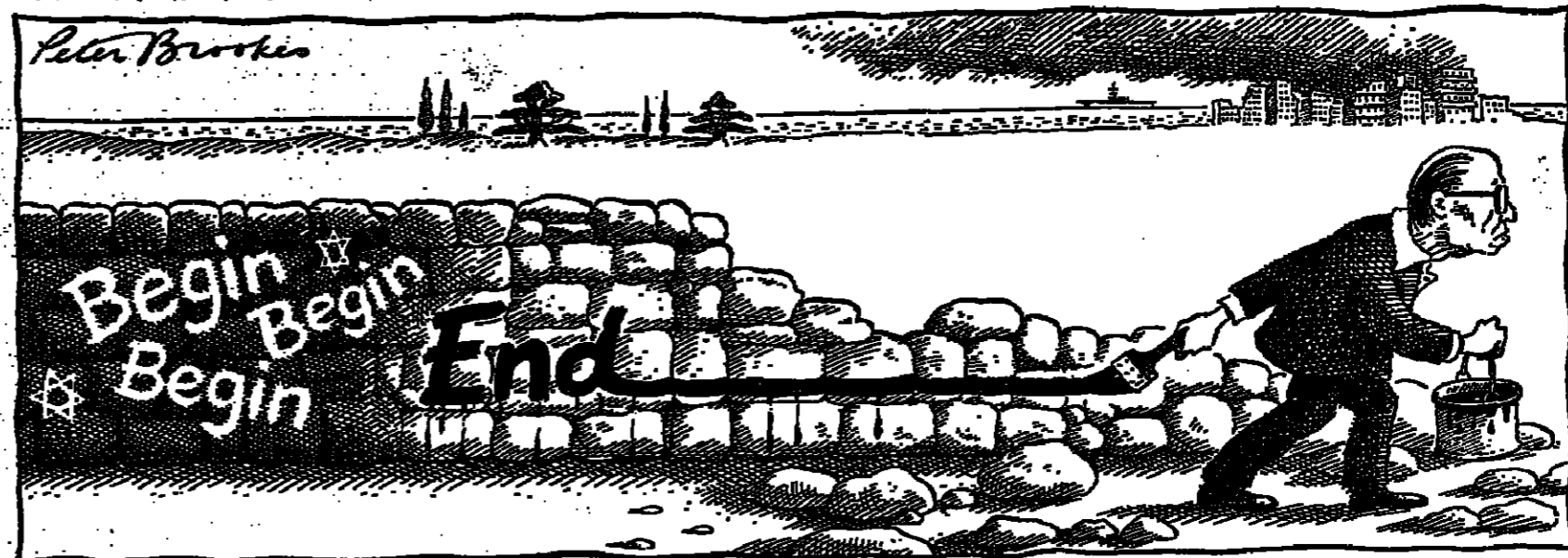
From Zdzislaw Pysarski, New York

The Falklands sovereignty issue has become a distant rather than a pressing preoccupation for most members of the UN Decolonization Committee.

Salvador guerrillas and Stone to meet again

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

After the first substantive face-to-face talks between representatives of the Reagan Administration and the left-wing Salvadoran guerrillas, both sides expressed optimism and a determination to hold future meetings.



Washington blamed for bases delay

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece blamed Washington yesterday for a delay in signing the agreement about American military bases in Greece and said it would not tolerate the situation for long.

"We are setting no ultimatum," said Mr Dimitri Maroudas, the Government's chief spokesman. "But we shall not tolerate the perpetuation of the present status of the bases on the pretext that the signing is delayed."

The United States and Greece last month initiated a five-year pact on the bases. It supercedes agreements concluded over the past 30 years. The text was not divulged but the ruling Socialists insisted it satisfied their main campaign promises that the bases would be removed by a set date.

Zimbabwe sabotage trial had racial overtones

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe's short history has produced more than a few courtroom dramas, notably the Jekere murder trial and the Ipra treason case. But the circumstances which gave rise to the Thornhill sabotage trial and the dramatic intensity of the hearing attracted unprecedented international interest and concern.

The six defendants included three men regarded by colleagues and superiors as outstanding officers of loyalty and integrity, likely one day to command the Zimbabwe Air Force. Each accused as he gave evidence must have been aware that whatever the trial outcome his career was in ruins, a future in Zimbabwe virtually out of the question.

For each of the 44 days of the trial the officers filed up to the court from the cells below, smiling and signalling gestures of encouragement to wives and relatives in the public gallery. During evidence of torture, which occupied a good deal of the proceedings, the wives showed visible signs of distress.

Shuttle puts up satellite for India

Kennedy Space Centre (Reuters)

The space shuttle Challenger put a weather and communications satellite into orbit for the Indian Government yesterday, keeping up the shuttle programme's perfect record for deploying commercial payloads.

"We had a super day," Flight director Randy Stone said as the astronauts wound up their second day in orbit. "Everything was right on schedule right down the line."

Assets seized

Madrid (AFP)

The Spanish judiciary has ordered the seizure of all property held by Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, former president of Spain's leading private holding company Rumasa, which was nationalized on February 23.

Peak defiance

Chamonix (AP)

Three Polish Alpinists planted a huge red and white flag of the Solidarity trade union on top of Mont Blanc yesterday, the third anniversary of the Gdansk agreement establishing the union.

Waste hazard

Washington (NYT)

The amount of hazardous waste - 150 million tonnes being generated in the US is nearly four times higher than previously estimated, the Environmental Protection Agency has disclosed.

Somali deaths

Nairobi (AP)

At least 20 Somali soldiers and three civilians have been killed in rioting in four towns in Somalia's Bakool region bordering Ethiopia, the Somali rebel Hagan claimed.

Freedom row

Bad Bagnstadt, West Germany (Reuters)

Two East German teenagers a musician and a schoolboy escaped to the West after crossing the Baltic Sea in a dinghy.

Border blast

Künigshefen (AP)

An explosion on the "death strip" badly wounded at least two East German soldiers clearing mines, the West German border patrol said yesterday.

Net sabotage

Karlakrona (AP)

An anti-submarine net guarding an approach to Karlakrona, the secret naval base in southern Sweden, was sabotaged by a man cutting through its moorings.

Moscow denial

Moscow (AFP)

The Soviet Union has strongly denied recent Turkish allegations that Moscow was helping to train Armenian terrorists in Syria.

Chinese visitor

Peking (Reuters)

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian will pay an official visit to the US from October 10 to 15 after a six-day stay in Canada.

Sitting pretty

Brussels (AFP)

Two young Belgians have claimed a world record for sitting 55 hours in a bathtub of warm pudding mixture.

Fire kills eight

Savanne, Georgia (AFP)

A fire in a mental hospital near here killed eight patients.



Last words: The masked leader of a group of hijackers meets the press after surrendering at Tehran airport

Iran's asylum offer ends hijack drama

Tehran (AFP)

Five hijackers, surrendered to authorities here yesterday after hijacking an Air France jetliner on a Vienna to Paris flight four days ago.

Chadians claim rebels burnt village in south

Najamena (AP)

Libyan-backed rebels burnt down a Chadian village in the government-held south last week in a sudden upsurge of rebel activity in the area, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said yesterday.

France cracks down on illegal immigrants

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Big spontaneous demonstrations were held on Tuesday evening outside the Ministry of the Interior and in West Berlin as Social Democrats and Green MPs accused the Government of joint responsibility for the death of Mr Kemal Altun, who jumped from a sixth floor window in Berlin during a court hearing.

Mr John Cheek. Plea for self-determination

which Argentina interrupted their way of life.

Argentina and its Latin American supporters are expected to press Britain to an imperialist power bent on retaining its remaining colonies for strategic purposes. The principle of negotiation will also be emphasized.

Cuban issue the obstacle on Namibia

From Our Correspondent, New York

South Africa's insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola remains the only obstacle to the implementation of a United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa), according to Dr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary General, who has just completed a diplomatic mission in the area.

France cracks down on illegal immigrants

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand's Socialist French Government, which once took pride in claiming that it had one of the most liberal policies towards immigrants in the West yesterday announced a series of tough new measures designed to crack down on illegal immigrants in the face of growing racism at home.

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SPECTRUM

Still running with Rabbit.

moreover... Miles Kington

IN the 1950s, the people were all young and lived in couples. America was booming: "Purchasing power: young, newly powerful, born to consume."



David Little



Paul Sample

JOHN HOYER UPDIKE

born: March 18 1932
educated: Harvard College
1955-57 Worked as journalist for the New Yorker magazine

The Times Profile: John Updike

And there were always the sexual ceremonies, bodily ascensions in pursuit of a carnal liturgy. (One reviewer once nicely called Updike the pornographer of marriage.)

John Updike, who not only wrote Couples (1968) but many, many stories about these gracious pairs, is just over 50 himself. With his second wife, Martha, he has just been in Britain for a quick, jet-lagged visit to the Edinburgh Festival, which now has a book fair and a "Meet the Author" programme.

Updike was born, in 1932, in Shillington, Pennsylvania. This provided him with the "Olinger" country of his early stories, The Same Door (1959) and Pigeon Feathers (1962), a

fine myth-novel, very much marked, though, by the fact that round this date myth was the great sub-structure for everything. Since then there has been the world of "sexy" Manhattan, and then the "Tarbox" country, north of Boston, where the couples tend to live, as does Updike too.

Updike is something of a sacral aesthete himself. The early stories, like John O'Hara's, are set firmly in a Pennsylvania region, but this was not an O'Hara voice. Like Henry James, he was evidently after a sensuous education; and these tales of adolescent delicacy, looking in ordinary things for form, the Joycean epiphany, the illuminating revelation that lights up art and life at once. It would not have been hard to guess from them that his education had taken him to Harvard, where he studied English literature and worked on the Harvard Lampoon, nor that he had gone on from there to art school - in fact, on a Knox Fellowship to the Ruskin School in Oxford (indeed a story about dentistry in The Same Door celebrates this event). His hope was to be a cartoonist, but the stories and poems he wrote that year settled his fate. He was summoned from Ifley Road to the editorial staff of the New Yorker, a natural habitat for a writer of his finesse.

He worked for two years as a "Talk of the Town" reporter on that wonderful magazine, founded for style, sophistication, and Abercrombie and Fitch. A good part of his work has always appeared there, including his excellent reviews. The literary agents now said that, if you wanted to crack the magazine, you had to write like an Updike. Certainly, along with John Cheever, J. D.

Salinger and Donald Barthelme, he has been seen as the best of their modern finds. His writing had that special polish, that brilliance and on occasion over-brilliance of style, that fitted its pages. His antecedents were more Henry James or Edith Wharton than Hemingway, Faulkner, or Fitzgerald. The risk was that he could become an American equivalent to a British Hamstead novelist - socially knowing, stylistically charming, witty and self-limiting.

By the end of the 1950s, the beginning of the 1960s, the books were appearing in great profusion, from the fine, carpentered poems of The Carpentered Hen (1958) on. There were novels, like The Poorhouse Fair (1959), story collections, children's books, gatherings of essays and reviews. The versatility was apparent, but this could have become enclosed space, especially since now, in the new mood of the 1960s, careful formalism began to crack. The talk was of black humour, absurdism, spontaneous prose, experimental reportage, and something called Postmodernism.

Philip Roth, the powerful Jewish-American writer whose career in some ways parallels Updike's own, marvelously anatomizes the time in My Life As A Man. The moment was one of high literariness; all relationships were an aesthetic crisis. Girl friends turned into Isabel Archer or Anna Karenina, and one married for the moral strenuousness. Literature got us into this, Roth notes, and literature was going to have to get us out. Updike evidently recognized the tension too, and his work is the work of a survivor working through the artistic conflicts of American fiction through to the present.

Yet Updike did get out, or rather

amazingly extended his range, partly through some remarkable impersonations. There was, for example, Rabbit, Run in 1960, where he identifies with his homme moyen sensuel, "Rabbit" Angstrom, the ex-basketball player and entirely physical man who sets out, running, to lose his social and marital identity. At first this looked improbable Updike territory. But, like his friend and mentor, John Cheever, who so surprised us by moving from his Wapshot world to the penitentiary of Falconer, Updike opened up not only his social landscape but his style. Rabbit has stayed with him ever since. Two more novels follow him onward and upward through commonplace American society to an ambiguous, late twentieth century form of heroism. Rabbit, in the middle of things, is rich.

Then there was Bech. It has always helped that Updike is a superb parodist, both a splendid and sympathetic literary critic and an artful stylistic impersonator. He grew fascinated by the dominance of the Jewish-American novel, and invented for himself an un-WASP surrogate in the hairy, promiscuous, slow-writing Jewish-American novelist Bech, who has grown used to being touted around hospitable campuses and festivals for his ethnic existential anguish and sexual aroma. Bech: A Book (1970) is a series of casually interlinked short stories about his Eastern European official tour. Subsequent visitors (I have been one) are regularly shown this Updike socialist landscape, as they are the Olinger country or Tarbox; here is the Romanian critic, there the Bulgarian poetess.

Perhaps the most striking impersonation of all comes in his brilliant The

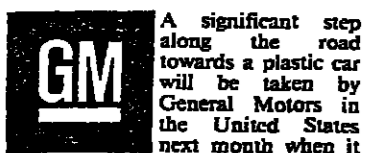
Coup (1979), where the narrator is Colonel Hakim Felix Ellelou, black dictator of the dry African state of Kush, who has been educated in the United States, and knows its wiles and corruptions. This is the most politically distanced of all Updike's novels, which usually take the realist's pleasure in the stuff of American reality. His books are uneasy celebrations of American life, troubled interplays between bright domestic interiors and dark history, which sense - like the couples themselves - that Grace has gone, but might be restored with aesthetic care and attention. They please a complex but large public; and Updike, too, is rich.

Updike's work had always walked carefully and seriously between familiar realism and the experimentalism that test it, between popularity and elaborate formal devotion. He not only knows but writes about the way in which the successful American writer is readily reduced to cozenage and imbecility. A new book of critical essays, Hugging the Shore, comes out soon, with a display of wide appreciativeness and a response to the most testing of our writers and critics: Italo Calvino, Muriel Spark, and the great American heritage of Melville and Hawthorne are among his subjects. In Edinburgh he aired a new novel which is neither Bech nor Rabbit. The Witches of Eastwick, set in the Vietnam period, should be out next year. Updike has been accused of sentimentalizing his women characters; he has tried here to challenge the view, which means challenging himself, the one thing his writing has always done. His survival has been made out of a rigorous artistic intelligence; and, in times when the contemporary American novel seems to have lost some of its glow and its direction, he is amongst the very best.

Malcolm Bradbury

Hugging the Shore will be published by Andre Deutsch in January, 1984.

Plastic is on the move



A significant step along the road towards a plastic car will be taken by General Motors in the United States next month when it launches a two-seater sports model, the Fiero. This will be one of the first mass produced cars from a big manufacturer to have a bodyshell of CRP (glass-reinforced plastic) instead of the usual steel and where General Motors leads, others are bound to follow.

Plastic bodied cars in themselves are nothing new. Small specialist companies in Britain like Lotus and Reliant have been using GRP for years but their bodies have been assembled and painted virtually by hand.

biggest killer of a car. The problem has been adapting the manufacture and finish of plastic bodies to mass production. Now, with injection moulding techniques and the development of polyurethane paints that can be applied at temperatures low enough not to melt the plastic, the obstacles are being overcome.

Like the Lotus or Reliant, the GM Fiero still relies on a steel chassis for its strength and the completely plastic car is still far away. Meanwhile many plastic components are being introduced, which together can make a useful contribution to weight saving. Plastic bumpers, for instance, are becoming common on new cars (and they have the additional advantage of being able to absorb minor knocks without damaging the paintwork). Plastic fuel tanks are another area.

As for a plastic engine, we may see one in Formula 2 racing cars next year.

A company in New Jersey has produced an engine which is 90 per cent plastic and tough enough to withstand high temperatures. It is only half as heavy as a metal engine. The result is a fuel saving of 24 per cent, but at the moment the engine is too expensive to produce to be a practical proposition for the average road car.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: CAR DESIGN



The BL digital display dashboard

Digital dashboard

A revolution will soon be taking place on the car dashboard. In place of the familiar series of dials there will be a single digital display on which the driver will be able to call up a range of information going far beyond that available on most cars today.

BL Technology's research programme on instrument and information displays has come up with a cathode ray tube as the means of producing clear and easily readable messages. In normal use the screen could give such information as vehicle speed, engine speed, the amount of fuel

in the tank, outside air temperature, total miles travelled, gear position and time of day.

Across the top of the screen, there would be a space, normally blank, for colour symbols to convey such messages as service due, heated rear screen on, sidelights/low beam on, main beam, parking brake on and seat belt unfastened. The two top corners of the screen are reserved for "malfunction" warnings and these could be divided into low and high priority. The less serious ones might include bulb failure, low washer fluid and worn brake pads; while high priorities (signalled in red) would be items like

low oil pressure, charging system failure and low brake fluid.

Overcharged?

Sir Clive Sinclair is a bold, talented and imaginative man, but there must be considerable scepticism about his plan to put a viable electric car into production in the next couple of years. Electric cars have been with us since the dawn of motoring, but the technology has not advanced sufficiently to overcome two very basic drawbacks - poor performance and limited range.

The batteries so far developed to power electric vehicles have been so heavy and space consuming and need recharging so often - every 50 miles or so - that they have been more suited to slow moving, short haul applications like milk floats and delivery vans, than cars. The electric cars that have emerged are mainly two-seater city runabouts, and they tend to end up in museums. The only one to go into serious production was the Enfield, but it failed to sell and the company went into liquidation.

So the portents for Sir Clive Sinclair are not encouraging, though from the wizard of the pocket calculator, the micro computer and now the flat-screen television, almost anything seems possible.

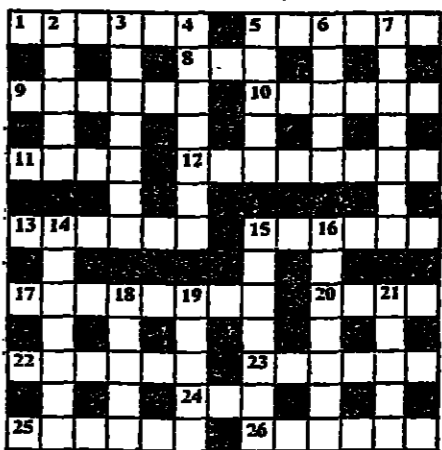
The Sinclair electric car will apparently be a three wheeler, single-seater, designed for city use and it will, Sir Clive maintains, be "totally revolutionary in concept". But even if he can overcome the technological barriers, he must still produce the vehicle at the right price. The trouble with the Enfield 8000, apart from its limited range and power, was that it cost twice as much as a Mini.

Road sensor

Daimler-Benz in Germany has developed a computerized navigation system that could answer many a motorist's prayer. What it does is to point the way through a maze of unfamiliar streets and prevent the driver getting lost. Signals picked up by a magnetic sensor on the rear bumper which take into account speed and distance are translated by means of a pre-programmed cassette on to a fascia display. This gives two essential pieces of information - whether to turn left or right or keep straight on (indicated by an illuminated arrow) and distance to your destination.

Peter Waymark

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 138)



ACROSS: 1 Slow gallop (6) 2 Heart chambers (5) 3 After (6) 3 Moving vehicles (7) 8 Epoch (3) 4 Become aware (7) 9 War fleet (6) 5 Mysterious power (5) 10 Celtic (6) 6 Anticipate fearfully (5) 11 Nonsense (4) 7 Pretender (7) 12 Happening (8) 13 Indian tribe (6) 14 Fuss (7) 15 Caper (6) 15 Become similar (7) 17 Common person (8) 16 Framp (7) 18 Crystalline mineral (5) 20 Swallow hastily (4) 19 Sarcastic (5) 22 Cook too long (6) 20 Not confined (5) 23 Public speaker (6) 21 Not confined (5) 24 And not (3) 25 Rain protector (6) 26 Of many colours (6) SOLUTION TO No 137 ACROSS: 1 Placid 4 Nicked 7 Oath 8 Camp site 9 Soapbuds 12 Old 15 Hearty 16 Meteor 17 Mat 19 Rhapsody 24 Splinter 25 Ramp 26 Compel DOWN: 1 Prop 2 Astronaut 3 Ducks 4 Nomad 5 Cash 6 Extol 10 Pater 11 Specs 12 Overdrawn 13 Dire 14 Wham 18 Appro 20 Hotel 21 Purge 22 Cusp 23 Epic

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OUT OF TOUCH

Sombre rallying-calls issue from the leaders of the TUC as delegates to Congress prepare to meet in Blackpool next week for the first great gathering of the Labour movement since the general election.

failure of the movement to induce even 40 per cent of its membership to vote for Labour and a manifesto closely reflecting the policies determined by last year's Congress.

sides' while to talk: it fosters a sense of reality in both. It is those who reject it who are out of touch with the historic spirit of the movement.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY OF ROME

Pope John Paul II is not the first pontiff to find the Jesuits difficult to handle. His attempts to control them, though well short of the radical solution of Pope Clement XIV, have generated a sense of crisis in the order to which its General Congregation, opening today in Rome, will have to find a remedy.

the church's hierarchical structure, which was achieved, with characteristic absoluteness, by means of a personal vow of obedience to the pope. Consequently any difficulties in the society are the pope's responsibility in a special way, beyond his normal oversight of the major international religious orders.

And as most local hierarchies, especially in Central America, find themselves having to pick a cautious and precarious path through the minefield of their region's political tensions, the independent activities of the local Jesuits will seem more than irritating. The bishops are liable to be more conservative, but theirs is the responsibility for bringing the church through the fire which always threatens to engulf it.

Young and jobless

From the Leader of Kent County Council Sir, Mr Paul Lewis's letter to you (August 25) about the Kent County Council's plans to provide 500 Youth Training Scheme places is so grossly misleading that it needs a reply.

county council was wrong to make its intentions to create YTS places known through the Careers Service to young people before the local area board had approved them. The county council was not to know that the trade unions' stubborn insistence on the rate for the job would have the effect of sabotaging an important contribution towards youth training, which, incidentally, would have given a large number of school leavers a better hope of future employment.

unhappy, inattentive and indecisive. Removing the block by angioplasty under local anaesthesia restores the blood flow immediately and relieves the pain; needles that have been present for months heal within weeks and the patient becomes happy, alert and active within days.

Body and mind

From Mr Peter Davies Sir, Dr J. W. Fanley (August 24) refers to lack of appreciation of psychosomatic factors in illness by practitioners in the NHS implying, as do many practitioners of alternative medicine, that most diseases are due to the influence of the mind on the body.

There are many situations in which care of a diseased body produces a salutary effect in the mind. Orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.

Export-led boom not so simple

From Mr Bernard M. Dembo Sir, Having spent many years selling British engineering overseas, I am not at all surprised by the continued fall in exports, only that anything else should be expected, even by political optimists.

Excesses of some newspapers

From Mr Laurence Cummins Sir, If the shabbier elements of Fleet Street can exercise no self-control it is possible that the TUC will win significant support for artificial restraint upon newspapers.

Unravelling the state sector

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative) Sir, Your Financial Correspondent's charge against me, made indirectly, of "indecisiveness" on privatisation issues (August 25) is a peculiar one.

The poverty lobby

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group Sir, David Walker (The Times, August 25) refers "would-be poverty campaigners" to the 1982 SSRC study on the cycle of deprivation to support his argument that "the problem of poverty in Britain is a tissue of inadequacy and even fecklessness, as well as material want".

"Breadline Britain" survey, to which Mr Walker also refers, confirm the extent to which the poor are still suffering "primary deprivation" in the sense that they cannot afford to keep warm or eat properly.

Islington finances

From Mr George Cunningham Sir, The Deputy Leader of Islington Council (August 26) suggests that the new five-way local newspaper which the council intends to finance with about £100,000 of public money will have no political affiliation to the Labour Party.

has regrettably turned down my request that he should refer this expenditure to the court for a ruling on its legality. Unfortunately present law requires the auditor to feel certain in his own mind that the expenditure is illegal before he can put it to the court; it is not enough for him to entertain a doubt as to its legality.

Fakes at Lord's

From Mr Robin Simon Sir, In a letter published in The Times on August 27 Mr E. W. Swanton made certain remarks about my assertion that some of the paintings in the MCC collection on exhibition at Lord's are forgeries. He states that the object of the MCC in exhibiting its pictures is "to present the game and its history".

devoted work of the present curator, Mr Stephen Green, and his assistant and to state that I extend this respect to the remarkable work of his predecessor, Miss Rais-Kerr. I am glad that Mr Swanton saw fit to quote the heartfelt acknowledgement made in this regard by my co-author and myself in the preface to our book, The Art of Cricket.

Britain's Nato role

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson Sir, Mr Corelli Barnett (August 23) has done as much as anyone to educate Britain to her new standing in the world and to dispel the many illusions of grandeur which had remained. It seems odd, therefore, to find him among those who believe that the Britain of today must continue to dabble in superpower geopolitics and that we have any defensible "bedrock" interest except the security of our own country.

Saved in vain?

From the Reverend John Ticehurst Sir, "Saving" a building like the United Reformed Church at Clifton Down in Bristol (report, August 24) is very much a Pyrrhic victory, surely? Who needs, in a city stuffed with unused purpose-built offices, an open-plan office nearly 60ft high with no toilets, no heating and no parking?

Under fire

From Mr Philip Niman Sir, The article in The Times of Saturday, August 20, "The men who died at dawn", exposes the stupidity of courts martial in those days. However, I can speak from first-hand experience of a more modern outlook.

CAP expenditure

From Mr K. D. Collins, MEP for Strathclyde East (Socialist (Labour)) Sir, It was with some dismay that I read (report, August 26) that Sir Richard Butler, of the National Farmers' Union, believes that the burden of controlling CAP expenditure "must be shared equitably by all sectors, including consumers, food processors and third country suppliers."

Today it would be asking £10,000 a head just to stop the place falling down. Your photograph, taken from a private house, gives a view no one else ever sees: it presents a dour and dark face to the beauty of the Downs.

imprisonment which, on confirmation, was reduced to an ignominious discharge. I believe this was the last trial in England of a man charged with cowardice.

To the point

From Mr Simon A. May Sir, On the matter of public literacy ("Missing the point") readers, to whom the hyphen is a sealed book, claim an insight into the customer's state of mind when they acknowledge settlement of a debt: "Paid with thanks". How can they possibly know?

Colourless cricket

From Mr John Hastings-Bass Sir, Mr Palmer's letter (August 16) laments the disappearance of the cricket cap.



THE ARTS

London theatre  
A bleak warmth  
Our Day Out  
Young Vic

Arriving at the Young Vic via television and the Liverpool Everyman, Willy Russell's pocket musical seems to have been born and bred in Waterloo Road.

Played against a curtain-sized enlargement of a school essay, *Our Day Out* begins in the same blow-by-blow style with the sight of a pack of comprehensive no-hopers being frisked for lemonade and chocolates, and loaded on to a bus for an improving trip to Bodiam Castle.

Before long the fags are out, a junior teacher is being positioned from the back seats and a mutinous chant of "boring" is greeting the Sussex countryside. They descend on a cafe-like locusts, then stop off at a zoo, returning laden with kidnapped animals and thence to Bodiam (represented with a blow-up infant-school picture) where the staff find themselves delivering information on the strategic use of the barban into the empty air.

Besides staging a school essay, Mr Russell is also presenting a duel between two members of the staff: the liberal woman teacher who organized the trip (Rosallind Boxall) and a diehard authoritarian (Stephen Lewis) who joins it as the resident killjoy. From his point of view, such trips are educationally worthless. From hers, these children have no educational hopes anyway, so why not at least give them a good day out? "We're in a job that's funded to fail."

The skill and zest of the show, wholeheartedly projected in Bob Eaton's production, derive from its success in following the adult argument through while preserving all the fun of a story for and mainly played by children.

Recruited from schools all over London, the company teams with sharply defiant personalities, among whom the quiet girl who refuses to come home is no less striking than the grinning lady-killer in the back seats. Apart from Marie Oustan, mooning us in her love for "Shit" in one of the best numbers, they are not up to solos; but, so far as organized chaos and disciplined chorus work go, they are a treat.

They also persuade you to view the events through their eyes as a Dickensian fairy tale in which the Scrooge-like features of Mr Lewis gradually melt into those of an indulgent uncle, who celebrates his conversion by leading them off to the fair in a cowboy hat, at which point "Shit" in one of the hymns and reprises of "Coming Round the Mountain" give way to rock 'n' roll. Then they pile happily into the bus, and the authoritarian world of angry parents and school discipline gradually returns.

"Why can't it always be like this?" asks the runaway girl on the beach. By the end it is clear that all they have had is a day out. I have rarely seen a show that combined such warmth with such bleakness.

Irving Wardle

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Dance  
Inside the mind of a mad genius

New York City Ballet  
Covent Garden

Tuesday night's performance, an all-Balanchine programme, brought the last of the London premieres in New York City Ballet's Covent Garden season.

Balanchine insisted on the laborious title *Roberti Schumann's "Davidshändlerentz"* for the big ballet he created in 1980, so it is not fanciful to read into its action an allusion to the composer himself as well as his idea of a brave young group, David's Band, going out to smite the Philistines. Perhaps everything must be seen as happening inside the poor mad genius's mind.

What the setting depicts is a fragment of a great hall where a pianist sits playing with his back to us. The arches of the wall are echoed in the jagged curves of dead trees visible beyond, on the shore of a lake from which an imagined cathedral rises. The idea of the setting, based on a painting by Caspar Friedrich, seems to me a lot better than its crude realization by Rouben Ter-Arutunian.

I called it a big ballet, and so it is in scope, but the pianist, Gordon Boeizner, is the only musician and the cast consists of just four couples, usually with only two dancers at a time on stage. Among them, Adam Liders perhaps comes closest to Schumann's Eusebius; it is he who at one point is threatened by Philistines emerging from the shadows, nasty black creatures wielding huge quilts (critics, obviously). Liders ends the ballet, too, bidding farewell to the gracious Karin von Aroldingen.

The qualities of the various dancers are admirably used, especially that pair, and lovely, capricious yet contemplative Suzanne Farrell paired with the courteous formality of Jacques d'Amboise, Stephanie Saklad and Ib Andersen are the most impetuous couple. Heather Watts and Peter Martins curiously subbed but with a scarcely concealed strength in reserve.

As in *Liederslieder Walzer*, Balanchine has his women wear beeled shoes to establish a naturalistic mood before they change into ballet shoes to allow the dances to leap into a more fanciful manner. Von Aroldingen changes back for her last entry, and the men wear low heels throughout. This device enlarges an already wide variety of styles, from a drinking song to lovers' heart-pourings, through which the choreography expresses the nature of the romantic artist. But perhaps Balanchine would say he was just making dances to match the music, which they do to perfection. Each to his own reading.

I have space only to mention two remarkable performances among new casts in the other ballets given. Leading the Mozart *Divertimento No 13*, Joseph Duell proved himself a classical dancer of exceptional bearing, style and finish, and Heather Watts illuminated *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto* by the exemplary articulation of her dances in space and time.

John Percival



Closest to Eusebius: Adam Liders with the gracious Karin von Aroldingen

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL  
Loving sense of untheatrical stillness

Doña Rosita, the Spinster  
Royal Lyceum

Lorca's elegy for a beautiful girl in turn-of-the-century Granada, condemned to spinsterhood and a society watching its own time running out, is brought to Edinburgh by Nuria Espert's company. It gives, even for a theatregoer with little Spanish, a blessed taste of quality and delicacy amid the rubbish and hit-and-miss amateurism that we up here are finding hard to avoid. *The Cherry Orchard* will follow it here next week, and it stands the comparison honourably. Rosita's brief happiness with her cousin-fiancee who is called to

South America and never returns is portrayed with an unmemorable lyricism that sets Spain a world away from Russia, and the accepted social apparatus of wedding-dresses, embroidering and nightgown sewing for the bridal night as a torment that no disappointed girl in Chekhov ever endured. Prodigious, Lorca brings on stage a host of characters who intensify pressure on both the spinster and her social group; staving and pathetically gentle unparables a few steps below careless nouveau riche above (find how a drawing room's atmosphere crackles with those two classes facing each other) and a sweetly dignified old poet turned poor schoolteacher and suffering humiliation from rich brats.

Anthony Masters

In Espert's company these little parts, without exception, are carefully cast and beautifully played; as so often when watching great European theatre groups, you experience a sense of stillness, loving dedication and untheatricality which innocently casts shadows of nagging doubt over our own companies. Outstanding are Carmen Bernardos as Rosita's young aunt, Carlos Lucena as her unworshipful uncle devoted to roses and Julia Martinez in the wonderful role of the curiously outspoken housekeeper. Espert herself is mesmerizing. She ages, in convincing departure from Lorca's direction, largely by tightening her hair in a bun, and finally by a faintly hunched shuffle in a white shift that answers Lorca's image of the rose

changing from morning red to white death at night. Already, in Act II, she allows herself an arresting, apprehensive glance at breasts, face and waistline. In the great speech recognizing her despair, she tiptoes as if dreaming.

Jorge Lavelli's production uses unorthodox stage placings with creative assurance, and Max Biggers's set has the same flair. His gauze front curtains and cyclorama frame an austerity suggesting rather a museum than a salon with real rooms beyond, but embrace the widows and spinners in the white of the dying rose, the trousseau and the shroud.

Peter Ackroyd

We regret that the name of the artist Bridget Riley was wrongly spelled on this page yesterday.

Television  
Prosy Shakespeare, stabbing guitars

Reinvented in this 1960 classic of confrontation between an arrogant soloist and an overbearing orchestra; until Tuesday night I had heard the piece played only by its dedicatee, Mstislav Rostropovich, in whose hands the gestures are larger than life.

Earlier his *Live pour orchestre*, which he had conducted with the orchestra earlier this season, sounded technically more confident but musically less impressive, as if the gestures had taken over the content. The audience added its contribution to the aleatoric interludes (intended for relaxation, says the composer) with great commitment.

The second half of the concert, conducted by Richard Hickox.

Music Theatre Ensemble  
St Donar's Arts Centre

Music Theatre, what crimes are committed in its name! For night on seven decades now Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale* has existed as a model of what can be achieved when music and drama join hands outside the conventional marriages of opera and ballet, but for composers coming afterwards it has been a perilous act to follow. It was brave, therefore, of

the sixteenth. Although this Brazilian adaptation was "from William Shakespeare", it might just as well have been taken from the works of Mrs O'Connell or Theodore Dreiser. Apart from the final two lines, there was no poetry at all; perhaps Brazil is the place where the cuts come from.

Romeo enters in a plaid shirt; he is eating in a cafeteria and remarks about "choking gall" or "bawling love" might have been out of place, so instead his first line is "I'll kill that bell ringer woman". Since he is a "student of pharmacy", the Shakespearean prospect of poison opens up. It

re-imagined in this 1960 classic of confrontation between an arrogant soloist and an overbearing orchestra; until Tuesday night I had heard the piece played only by its dedicatee, Mstislav Rostropovich, in whose hands the gestures are larger than life.

sketches, dance routines, songs, flamenco and macabre. That may make it sound like fun, but the material is all so weak it would have been howled off the stage by the notoriously ungenerous vaudeville audiences. And, if that was not the point, then I wonder what is the point in paying homage to a style while forgetting all the quickness, variety and vulgarity which made that style live. One is left with the work's two efforts at a non-vaudeville consistency. First there is a birth-death scenario that fits all the

With Visconti's *The Leopard* restored to health, and opening at full length in London today, Geoff Brown asks how much more suppressed film remains in the archives

Reformation in the wake of Napoleon

Burt Lancaster's proud prince, with Claudia Cardinale, in *The Leopard*



For a few days in December 1963 zoological warfare erupted in Britain's newspaper headlines. "The Leopard Man Says: I Will Sue", shouted the London *Evening Standard* on December 18; he was suing, moreover, a company of foxes. The small print explained matters. This *Leopard Man* was the director Lucchino Visconti, adapter of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's masterly novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition, *I gattopardo*; the film had won the Golden Palm award at Cannes that year. The foxes were the Twentieth-Century breed, who released the film in Britain and America with damaging cuts, bleached colour and an irritating English-language soundtrack. The war had reached the *Times* letters page the previous day: Visconti himself wrote from Rome, voicing his disgust in gentlemanly terms. But two months earlier, in the *Sunday Times*, no words had been minced: the director despatched a literary assistant, discharging his work for which I acknowledge no paternity at all, and summoning the spirit of Robespierre ("It is time for some heads to roll").

In the event no one was guillotined and Fox were never sued; time just marched on. Sydney Pollack, the television director hired by Fox to supervise the new version, soon progressed to respectable work on the big screen; the leading players - Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale - variously flourished; circulating prints gradually deteriorated, then disappeared. Seven films and 13 years later, Visconti died. Now, suddenly, the *Leopard Man* is scoring a posthumous victory: after spending time and money doctoring his work, Fox have just spent more time and money repairing the damage. New prints have been struck from the original Technicolor negative and English subtitles prepared; the restored film, 186 minutes long, opens today at the Gate Cinema, Noting Hill, in London. The *Leopard*, it seems, can change its spots - along with the fox.

Fox's reversal may be ironic, but it is not beyond comprehension. By linking up with Hollywood, Visconti and his producer ensured an enlarged budget, wider international release and the required services of Burt Lancaster - what other actor could incarnate Lampedusa's proud Sicilian prince, who touched chandeliers with his head and bent cutlery by mistake? As a corollary, however, Visconti's stately, atmospheric epic became prey to Hollywood's market forces. In 1963, the art-house audience that might have appreciated Italian acquisitions was not yet clearly established; Fox's hands were also too occupied with *Cleopatra* to give *The Leopard* any special treatment. Twenty years later, different market forces operate. Mass cinema audiences have dwindled and splintered, and the Hollywood factory belt has almost seized up. To meet these changed conditions, Fox now sports an "International Classics" division, primed to snap up quality imports

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet  
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AUTUMN GARDENS NUMBER  
Uncommon Autumn Bulbs  
in an article illustrated in colour, Brian Mathew suggests some less familiar flowers for autumn.  
Garden on the Kent Coast Arthur Hellyer considers the changes made in recent years in the important Lutyns garden of The Salvation, Sandwich. Greenhouse Design and Setting Ken Lammon looks at different styles of greenhouses  
and ways of placing them decoratively in the garden.  
Autumn Daisy Chains Christopher Lloyd selects his favourite daisies for the autumn.  
Too Many Plants Spoil the Garden Tony Vemson suggests that many gardens suffer from overcrowding with plants.

COUNTRY LIFE ON SALE NOW

WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Cope bid looks likely

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

It looks as though a second bid for Cope-Aliman International may be around the corner - just four months after the Dowable Consortium's abortive £24m approach. Yesterday, a large put through of 3.2 million shares in Cope, was above the market price...

has already forecast pretax profits of £2.6m for the second half making a total of £1.7m for the year against £1.6m last year. Mr Louis Manson, chairman of Cope, said, "We have received no approaches".

future over US interest rates. As a result nervous profit-taking after the record-breaking run earlier this account was enough to clip a further 8.9 from the FT Index at 707.4. Leading industrialists were almost all marked lower with ICI down 8p at 442p after recent support stemming from press comment...

German's dumping of cheap cement in Britain saw the price of Brite Circle Industries crumble 7p to 421p. East German cement costs between 5 to 6 per cent less than its British equivalent, despite transportation costs.

merchant banker, and Simon & Coates its stockbrokers, have resigned in the wake of Mr Michael Goldstone's dismissal as managing director of the group. Mr Goldstone was dismissed because of his decision to oppose the closure of the group's cable division. Yesterday shares of Ward & Goldstone held steady at 80p.

THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies. The top 1000 UK companies with all statistical details...

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price Chgs, Div Yld, P/E. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS and SHORTS.

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price Chgs, Div Yld, P/E. Includes sections for MEDIANES and LONGS.

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price Chgs, Div Yld, P/E. Includes sections for COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN and LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price Chgs, Div Yld, P/E. Includes sections for DOLLAR STOCKS and BANKS AND DISCOUNTS.

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price Chgs, Div Yld, P/E. Includes sections for BREWERIES AND DISTILLERS and COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table with columns: Market rates (day forward), Market rates (3 months), Market rates (6 months), Market rates (12 months).

Money Market Rates

Table with columns: Clearing Bank Base Rate 9%, Discount Rate, Overnight High 5%, Week Fixed 5%.

Other Markets

Table with columns: Australia, Bahrain, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table with columns: Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, etc.

Euro-Spot Deposits

Table with columns: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Gold

Table with columns: Gold (spot), Gold (1000 oz), Gold (100 oz).

SHIPPING

Table with columns: Ship Name, Company, Destination, Status.

MINES

Table with columns: Mine Name, Location, Production, Status.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Assets, Liabilities, Status.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: Insurer Name, Capital, Assets, Status.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Assets, Liabilities, Status.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Property Name, Location, Value, Status.

PLANTATIONS

Table with columns: Plantation Name, Location, Area, Status.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table with columns: Item Name, Value, Status.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table with columns: Security Name, Value, Status.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 707.4 down 8.9 FT Gilt: 79.33 down 0.08 FT All Shares: 450.36 down 4.16

Bargains: 17,157 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 99.7 down 0.79 New York Dow Jones Average (latest): 1202.54 up 6.60

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,189.43 down 6.49 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 965.94 down 5.14

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4940 down 1/2 cent DM 4.0325 up 0.0025 FF 12.1125 down 0.0175

NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.4955 Dollar \$2.6932

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9% Finance houses base rate 10 Discount market loans week fixed 9%

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$414.25 pm \$414.50 close \$414.25-428.50 (\$227.50-278) down \$3.50

TODAY

Interim Anglo American Gold Investment, Arrow Chemicals, BP, British Vending Industries, Cadbury Schweppes, Cambridge Electronic Industries, Charterhouse Group, Metal Closures Group, Micro Business Systems, Noble and Lund, Finales Continental Microwave.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

BET Group, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (12.15); The Bristol Evening Post, Temple Way, Bristol (noon); Carico Engineering Group, The George Hotel, Huddersfield (3.00); Christian Salvanes, 50 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh (noon); Hales Properties Group, The Belfry Hotel, Wishaw, N. Sutton Coldfield (noon); Kinta-Kellas Rubber Estates, 1-4 Great Tower Street, EC3 (noon); Renold, Renold House, Wytherhawe, Manchester (2.30); SalecTV, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W1 (11.30); Star Offshore Services, The Baltic Exchange, 14-20 St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon); Syllona, Post House Hotel, Leeds Road, Bramham, N. Leeds (2.30); VTC, The Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (10.30).

NOTEBOOK

Babcock International, the process plant and instrument manufacturer, raised interim pretax profit by 70 per cent to £14m. The dividend has been held at 3.4p. The improvement in the American car and furniture businesses and lower interest rates and borrowings helped increase profits.

Industry leaders shed market share as fringe operators slash rates Major motor insurers lose millions in 'unrealistic' premium price war

By Andrew Cornelius Britain's major insurance companies are losing millions of pounds worth of business in a cut-throat price war over motor premiums.

Table with 2 columns: Company Name, Pretax Profits. Includes General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, etc.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, Britain's largest motor insurance company, indicated problems on the motor account three weeks ago when it announced interim results for 1983.

The increasingly intense competition follows the 7 per cent rise in premiums announced last October by GRS, which insures more than 1.6 million British motorists.

income and means that the company has failed to increase its motor insurance premium income for the first time in memory.

The tough competition for motor business was responsible for GRS's British underwriting losses of £22.9m in the six months to June 30 against a loss of £20.7m for the same last year.

Intervention stops dollar

The dollar rose strongly in European markets again yesterday, propelled by money supply and interest rate worries.

Malcolm Baldrige, US Commerce Secretary, said that interest rates would rise as the economy recovered unless there were cuts in the Federal budget deficit.

The US composite index of leading economic indicators rose by 0.3 per cent in July, according to the Commerce Department.

The pound slipped below \$1.49 at one stage but recovered to close at a cent down at \$1.4940.

In London the dollar closed at DM 2.7030. The Federal Reserve was again injecting money into the system yesterday (this time with system repurchases).

Shell UK is to explain how output from wells can be increased by new, if expensive, technology. A paper to be presented by Mr P. G. Bath, of Shell, and two Dutch colleagues, shows that a gas injection scheme costing £1.40m could result in as much as a further 300m barrels being produced from the Shell-Esso Brentfield field.

Banks continue talks on Brazilian debt

Brazil's advisory group of banks meets in New York today to discuss the more than \$1 billion country's acute liquidity problems.

Table with 2 columns: Country, Total of which and 1982 short-term. Includes Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, Colombia.

The IMF board would not approve the programme until the Brazilian congress passed new laws limiting pay rises to 80 per cent of the rise in the cost of living.

Commercial banks are then expected to agree to release more of a \$4.4bn (£2.9bn) loan to Brazil. So far, \$2.5bn has been disbursed, but further drawings were blocked until Brazil reached new agreement with the IMF.

Commercial banks are continuing work on rescheduling plans for \$18bn of Venezuela's debts, but Venezuela's refusal to bow to an IMF programme until after December elections is likely to delay final agreement and has annoyed many bankers.

Some bankers are expected to oppose extending a 90-day moratorium on repayments of principal on public sector debt which expires on September 30.

Smuggled gold warning

Customs and Excise has warned gold bullion and coin dealers that if they buy smuggled gold it will be subject to forfeiture.

The Customs believes that gold, valued at more than £100m has been smuggled into the country since April, 1982, when value-added tax was imposed on the sale of gold coins.

Mr Tom Epperson, research director for Howard Weil Labourers Friedrichs in New Orleans, said that he did not believe that the early rally would last. "The market is still feeling around and a downside break is more likely than an upside move over the next three months."

Smuggled gold warning

Mr Roger Nias, Spring's chief executive, and his advisers said they are studying the offer but are unlikely to respond to it until the OFT decision is known, although Sunlight now had the edge.

A successful merger with Spring Grove would give Sunlight a strong hold on the time-hire side and use of some of the most modern, but under utilized, plant in the industry.

It lists 10 questions that dealers should ask themselves when they buy gold. These include how the gold is being delivered and whether a quick settlement is being demanded and whether the seller has title.

Family newspaper group to be sold

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers has reached provisional agreement to acquire Jesse Ward Investments, the family-owned newspaper group.

PSN plans major rationalization of the Croydor group. The London printing works will be closed and production transferred to Portsmouth. The Croydor head office, Advertiser House, is being sold.

The chairman of the Croydor Advertiser, Mr Robert Sibby, said: "Obviously it is sad when an old established family company is sold, but we faced an uncertain future when there was no likelihood of any continuity of family management."

Crucial aircraft contract awarded to UK and US companies Rediffusion shares £30m MoD order

The Ministry of Defence yesterday placed a crucial order, possibly worth about £30m, with one British and one American company to work together to build four of the world's most advanced crew-training simulators for the Panavia Tornado aircraft.

The crucial nature of the contract cannot be underestimated, given the poor business in the commercial airline field.

The MoD and the two companies will not say how much the new contract is worth. The machines, however, are vastly more complex than simulators for, say, jumbo jets. It is "like designing for Star Wars-type machines", a specialist said yesterday.

City Editor's Comment

Ship of state takes on new helmsmen

Virtually every nationalized industry chairman leaves office a wiser man than when he first agreed to take the poisoned chalice.

Recent studies by Whitehall of long-term public spending problems have highlighted the fact that rail and coal in particular are going to remain a heavy drain on public funds until at least 1990.

Departing are Sir Norman Siddall (coal), Mr Ian MacGregor (steel) and Sir Robert Atkinson (shipbuilders); in their places come Mr MacGregor again (switching to coal), Mr Robert Haslam (steel) and Mr Graham Day (shipbuilders).

The new appointments are critical for several reasons. For a start they mean that this Government has finally got in place the men that it sees as being equipped to carry out the revolution - it is no less - in working habits, efficiency and employment that lies at the heart of the Government's approach to nationalized industries.

North Sea oil 'in line for investment'

Indications that the North Sea oil industry is moving into a second stage of development, with plans for multi-million pound investment, are expected to be given today at the World Petroleum Congress in London.

Much, therefore, rides on the success of the new chairmen who take over this month. Compared with four years ago, the climate for steamlining and rationalization is pretty good.

Shell UK is to explain how output from wells can be increased by new, if expensive, technology. A paper to be presented by Mr P. G. Bath, of Shell, and two Dutch colleagues, shows that a gas injection scheme costing £1.40m could result in as much as a further 300m barrels being produced from the Shell-Esso Brentfield field.

The steelworkers' union has been routed, the shipbuilders are all too clearly on borrowed time, and Mr MacGregor is now everybody's favourite in the inevitable conflict with Mr Scargill over pit jobs that is now looming.

Gas injection techniques, if applied to all Shell-Esso fields in the North Sea, could result in production being increased by up to over 850 barrels.

There is nothing however that will do more to allow these the new chairmen to deliver some of the Government's promises than a sustained economic recovery.

Asda profits rise 27%

Associated Dairies, the superstores, fresh foods and furnishings group, jumped well ahead of market expectations with pretax profits up 27 per cent to £77.35m in the year ended last April.

Executive management changes will take place at a special shareholders meeting on September 14, called to seek approval of a rescue package, which involved £10m of new finance into the group.

WALL STREET

Dow up by 7 points

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks were broadly higher yesterday after overcoming a lower start.

Rockware chief named

Mr Frank Davies, former divisional chairman of Alcan UK, the steel group, was named yesterday as the new chief executive of Rockware Group, the glassmakers.

Smuggled gold warning

Mr Tom Epperson, research director for Howard Weil Labourers Friedrichs in New Orleans, said that he did not believe that the early rally would last. "The market is still feeling around and a downside break is more likely than an upside move over the next three months."

Smuggled gold warning

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SKF Group half-year report. SKF Group profit for the first six months of 1983 amounted to 270 million Swedish kronor before exchange differences. Sales rose 9.5 per cent. Table with columns: Jan/June 1983, Jan/June 1982. Rows: Sales (MSkr), Operating income before depreciation (MSkr), Income before exchange differences (MSkr), Capital expenditure (MSkr), Average number of employees at work.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

Cautious report on Irish oil find

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

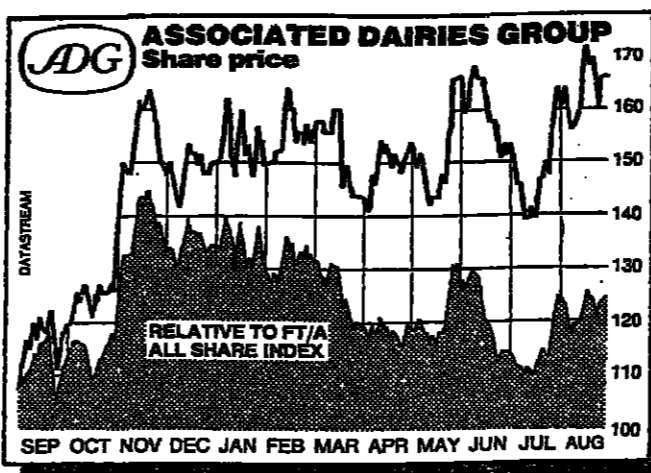
A new appraisal of offshore oil exploration in the Celtic Sea off the Irish South coast by leading analysts has emphasised that speculation of big oil discoveries should be treated with caution. Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, has analysed initial results from the block being drilled by a consortium headed by Gulf and which includes the Irish company Atlantic Resources.

Stanley back in the black

By Jeremy Warner

A.G. Stanley Holdings half-year to 6.7.83. Pretax profit £493,000 (loss £171,000). Stated earnings 1.65p (loss 1.1p). Turnover £27.7m (£27.2m). Net interim dividend 20%. Share price 48p up 1p, Yield 3%.

Fine tuning helps Asda to 27% rise



Associated Dairies Group Year to 30.4.83. Pretax profit £77.38m (£60.77m). Stated earnings 9.17p (6.83p). Turnover £1,582 (£1,382). Net final dividend 1.75p mkg 3p (2.32p). Share price 166p Yield 2.58. Dividend payable £3.9.83.

Leeds-based Associated Dairies Group, with its Asda supermarkets, fresh food operation, and carpets and furnishing chains, has turned in results ahead of expectations. A 16 per cent turnover rise helped to generate a 27 per cent increase in pretax profits.

Babcock

Babcock International Half-year to 30.6.82. Pretax profit £14.04m (£8.2m). Turnover £476.9m (£488.5m). Net interim dividend 3.4p (3.4p). Share price 184p down 10p Yield 1.9%. Dividend payable 17.10.83.

China gives new tax concessions

Peking (AFP) - The Chinese are giving new tax advantages for joint venture companies operating in their country in an attempt to attract more foreign investors.

Could be some diversification, probably into a more profitable area than carpets and furnishings. But Asda, like Sainsbury and Tesco, must be looking over its shoulder at Mr Jimmy Gulliver now that the Argyl operation has been pulled together an expanded. Argyl has 5.6 per cent of the packaged grocery market if the Presto chain is taken in. Mr Gulliver clearly wants to make more impact than that.

The group has also been helped by a turnaround in its US automotive and furniture businesses, which account for more than half of US turnover, and are back in profit after last year's loss. The benefit here arises from an improvement in demand within the US auto and housebuilding industries.

Western Mining

Western Mining Year to 21.6.83. Consolidated operating profit AS3.97m (AS8.94m). Stated earnings 1.4 cents (2.5 cents). Turnover AS366m (AS265m). Net final dividend 1 cent. Share price 278p Yield 7.8. Dividend payable 18.11.83.

When the terms of the rumored Western Mining Corporation share placement were disclosed yesterday, howls of anguish could be heard all the way from the City to Collins Street.

It is not just that the issue was exclusive to Australian investors, but that the price of AS4.50 was an instantly profitable 20 per cent discount, and that the final results were pretty bad.

Excluding foreign investors, who singlehandedly have kept Australia's current account in reasonable shape, may lead in the medium term to a downward re-rating of the company. Yesterday, the share price fell 15p in London after losing in Australia as well.

Good Relations

Good Relations Half-year to June 30. Pretax profit £402,000 (£203,000). Stated earnings 3.8p (1.8p). Turnover £3.32m (£3.57m). Net interim dividend 1.5p. Share price 205p. Dividend payable October 1.

Merchant bankers and other financial advisers are not the only people to have prospered from the recent spate of big takeover battles around the City.

Financial public relations groups are also doing very nicely, as the latest profits from Good Relations show. True, pretax profits doubled to £402,000 mainly because of the abortive attempt to defeat BTR's bid for Thomas Tilling, but Good Relations should be able to make £750,000 by the year.

Nevertheless, the company has grown increasingly uncomfortable with the Unlisted Securities Market and has sought a full listing. Approval is expected tomorrow and dealings should start on Monday.



Interim Statement

The unaudited estimated results of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc for the six months ended 30th June 1983 are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Item, First 6 months 1983, First 6 months 1982, Year 1982\*. Rows include Investment Income, Less Interest Payable, Underwriting Results (Short-term, Long-term), Profit before taxation, Less Taxation, Profit after taxation, Less Preference dividend and Minority Interests, Profit after taxation available to Ordinary shareholders, Ordinary Dividend, Transferred to retained profits, Earnings per Ordinary share (after taxation).

\*Extracted from the Company's full Accounts for the year 1982 which received an unqualified Auditor's Report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Table with 4 columns: Results by Territories (before taxation), First 6 months 1983, Underwriting Result, Investment Income, First 6 months 1982, Net Premiums, Underwriting Result, Investment Income. Rows include Australia, Canada, Germany, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, U.K., U.S.A., Miscellaneous.

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown below.

Table with 4 columns: Territory, First 6 months 1983, First 6 months 1982, Investment Income, Underwriting Result. Rows include Australia, Canada, South Africa, Others.

Table with 4 columns: Exchange Rates, 30th June 1983, 30th June 1982. Rows include Australia, Canada, Germany, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, U.S.A.

Table with 4 columns: Life New Business, First 6 months 1983, First 6 months 1982, New Sums Assured, New Annuities per annum, New Annual Premiums, New Single Premiums.

The effect of exchange rate movements has been to increase net premiums by £20.9m, investment income by £3.3m and the short-term business underwriting loss by £0.2m. After allowing for the effect of exchange rate movements, the underlying growth in investment income was 6%. The underlying growth in premiums was 7%.

Germany and the U.S.A. reflect the continued difficult market conditions in those territories. Elsewhere there have been useful underwriting profit contributions from France and the Far East. The long-term business underwriting result represents one half of the expected transfer to shareholders for the full year. The increased transfer for the first six months 1983 reflects in some measure the large influx of new business in the United Kingdom arising from MIRA's Dividend. An interim dividend in respect of the year 1983 will be paid on 4th January 1984 of 7.75p per share (1982 - 7p share) which, with the tax credit available to eligible shareholders, is equivalent to 11.07p per share (1982 - 10p per share). This dividend will be paid to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register on 8th December 1983.

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET, COPPER HIGH GRADE, STANDARD CATHODES, COFFEE, LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, COCOA, RUBBER, LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES, and SOYBEAN OIL.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Stewart Naim Group - The company has acquired options to buy the remainder of the beneficial interest of Gulf Petroleum Products Corporation and Benefield Corporation in 9/15 Sackville St, London, W1, on top of the 40 per cent it already proposing to buy. The price to be paid for the remainder will be £5.5m.

Thomas Robinson and Son Half-year to 30.6.83. Pretax loss £47,000 (£498,000). Turnover £4m (£4.4m). Net interim dividend none. Share price 34p down 4p.

Table of company share prices under the heading 'WALL STREET', listing various companies and their share prices and yields.

Table of international financial futures prices including SOYBEAN OIL, WHEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES, and SOYBEAN OIL.

The First Scottish American Trust PLC. Interim Statement (Unaudited) for the six months ended July 31 1983. Gross Revenue 1,837,418, Net Profit 647,746. Includes a breakdown of assets and liabilities.

Lendu Holdings PLC. SHARE CAPITAL £150,000 in Shares of 5p each. Issued and fully paid £12,500. Lists various banks and financial institutions as shareholders.

Market closed. Share prices as at 3.30pm.





APPOINTMENTS

Shuffle at the top of Thorn EMI

Thorn EMI's Mr Dennis Neill, the deputy managing director, will relinquish his executive duties and retire from the board on December 31.

Victims of the world recession - 2: Edward Townsend looks at the steel industry

Rebuilding a slimmer giant from the world scrapheap

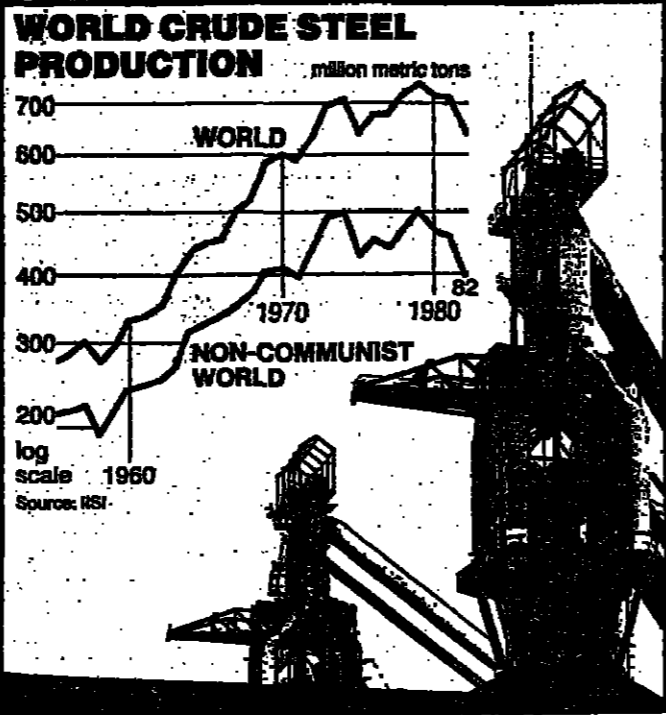


Table titled 'World's top twenty steel producers (1982)' listing countries and their production in million metric tons of crude steel.

considerations are bound to be a major constraint on most steel substitutes. Thinking along these lines, it is utterly impossible for me to subscribe to the view voiced by some that the steel industry is on the wane.

The main villains were Opec's two oil price crises

Steel consumption in the US, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France last year was 203 million tonnes, a fall of more than a fifth on the peak year of 1973 and more than four times greater than the decline in activity in those countries' leading steel-making industries.

The authoritative World Steel Dynamics review by the New York stockbroker Paine Webber Mitchell Hutchins blames the big slump on the trend, particularly in the US, towards smaller, lighter and less thirsty cars, continuing losses to other materials (substitution is thought to reduce steel demand normally by 1 per cent a year) the severe lag on capital spending in many countries, and the lack since 1974 of any periods anywhere in the world of above-average economic growth.

Longer term, steel can regain some of its former glory

brokers is forecasting a steel 'shortage' - a period of premium prices for steel on the world export market - in 1986.

year and, the stockbroker says, 'blow the lid off steel prices'. In such circumstances, the spot export price could rise from the present figure of about \$335 a tonne to \$240.

Meanwhile, the shortage of sufficient capital means steel-makers should assume that there is little significant increase in world capacity. Total capacity is forecast to grow by only 1 per cent a year probably until the end of the century.

So it seems that in the longer term, steel can look forward to regaining some of its former glory.

In the immediate future the prospects are bleak; the European Commission, for example, has called for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community, for example, has called for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community's steel industries by the end of 1985 if there is to be any chance of a return to viability.

In the US, the industry has faced a crisis of disaster proportions, much greater than that of the Europeans and the basic cause of the country's decision to erect barriers against imports.

Shipments of steel to the car factories fell by 29 per cent last year compared with 1981 to 9.3 million tonnes - in 1973 the car sector absorbed 23.2 million tons - appliance shipments were down another 29 per cent, and construction shipments by 29 per cent, oil and gas shipments by 56 per cent, and so on.

Even the super-efficient Japanese industry has been badly mauled by the recession. The country's steel mills have been operating at just 56 per cent of capacity this year, less than Britain, France and West Germany and their losses in the first quarter were estimated at \$67 per tonne.

The consequence is bound to be a continued period of friction in the international markets, with companies keen to offset their problems by trying to forge deals such as the one to combine the British Steel Corporation's Scottish steel slab output with the finishing capacity of United States Steel in Philadelphia.

Industrial notebook

Reports that carry weight at work

The time-honoured journalistic principle of dealing with voluminous official reports - weigh them, skim them but for God's sake don't read them - has nowhere been put to greater test than with the outpourings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and other independent investigators on the nationalized industries.

Last week's 250-page tome on British Gas produced by Deloitte's, the accountants, follows the two mammoth efforts on the Central Electricity Generating Board, and the National Coal Board produced by the Monopolies Commission.

All three works are the fruit of the Government's policy of using exhaustive efficiency audits by outsiders as a tool in the never-ending struggle to keep the nationalized industries on their toes.

No doubt the weight of the finished product has done much to justify the cost to public funds of producing them, while the contents will keep a platoon or two of backroom Whitehall paper-pushers employed for many a month.

The crucial question is, of course, whether the reports succeed in their purpose of improving efficiency in the State sector of industry. The industries themselves have - with varying degrees of sophistication - complained that the investigations are little more than cases of a bunch of amateurs being sent in with a clear mandate to find fault. Nobody should be surprised by this.

More interesting is the response of the Government which, despite its reputation of being an efficient administrator, has made little political capital out of the reports' findings.

There was some ritual bedding at the CEBG over its plainly inadequate forecasting methods, but ministers have fallen over themselves not to make a scene over the coal and gas reports.

The NCB report was gathering dust for more than six months until the election was safely out of the way (mostly for fear of upsetting the National Union of Mineworkers), while the appearance of the Deloitte's gas study in the middle of the holiday season, shows that the Government has, if anything, been keen to minimize rather than maximize its political impact.

This is the more surprising because all three reports have tended to come up with the kind of conclusions that the Government would be expected to like.

They have, for example, more than endorsed the politically unpopular dose of gas price rises in the last four years (the only criticism being that the increases have not gone far enough), while if there was ever any doubt about the need for an accelerated programme of pit closures, the Monopolies Commission has killed it with its detailed and excruciating exposure of the coal board's finances.

It is true that the quality of analysis has not always been as sophisticated as it might be. For example, one of Deloitte's conclusions reads simply: 'We saw a surprisingly high number of unutilized vehicles... we recommend that fleet sizes should be limited and strictly controlled' - which hardly ranks as in-depth analysis.

But that is an exception. The outwardly cool response of both the industries and the Government should not be allowed to disguise the fact that the investigations do represent a significant step forward.

More important is the undoubted blow for greater accountability that publication of such detailed information about the industries represents. Those who defy the journalistic tradition and read through the tomes will find a wealth of fact that has never seen the light before, and which goes beyond the inadequate and sometimes downright misleading information in many State industries' annual reports and accounts.

The Monopolies Commission's breakdowns of the losses at individual collieries is for example something that journalists and MPs have long sought in vain.

There is a parallel here with the House of Commons select committees, which are still struggling to justify their new-found powers. Their reports may be patchy in quality, but the knowledge that information must be given and published - even if few bother to read it - is proving one of the most powerful incentives to efficiency that can be turned on either Whitehall or nationalized industry boards.

Nice verbal massage, please.

Jonathan Davis

Large financial table containing various market data, including 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and 'Property Growth Funds & Annuities Ltd.' with columns for different fund types and values.





GOLF: BALLESTEROS CAN CLOSE GAP AT SUNNINGDALE



Spanish accent: Piñero, Severiano Ballesteros, Calero, Manuel Ballesteros and Garcia watching Larry Nelson driving (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Two sub-plots in a European story

By John Heaness Golf Correspondent

A number of issues are woven into the fabric of the European open championship, sponsored by Panasonic, at Sunningdale from today until Sunday.

year. Faldo won £84,210 leads Ballesteros by nearly £20,000 at the moment, but with a man like Ballesteros it might look a slender lead when so many rich pickings are in prospect for the rest of the season.

Kim Ki Taek, who has been closed in a single leg, has Ballesteros to win and Faldo to finish lower than seventh.

the pan, touched off by a red-hot putter. Faldo did 67 on Tuesday, which advances his claims rather more than Ballesteros's 68.

Within the framework of the championship there are two separate sub-plots. One involves Nick Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros for the title, unofficially at least, of the European golfer of the

In the ordinary way scores in programs should be treated with suspicion. I draw attention to

TABLE TENNIS

Prean shows human frailties

From a Special Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

Carl Prean, the 16-year-old from the Isle of Wight often insular in his approach to the game, showed himself human in the World Cup, sponsored by Three Fives, early yesterday.

Kim Ki Taek of South Korea, and assumptions like that about the beady-eyed, bespectacled and boyish-looking England No 1 have frequently proved superficial.

Kim Ki Taek, however, nearly did the lead a favour when he stood at match point against the world No 8 Jan-Ove Waldner, the player against whom Prean had so splendidly saved match point to win on Tuesday.

This brief lapse may cost him more than that. A three-way split for two places in the quarter-finals now looks a distinct possibility in his group and then that lost game could be vital. This, of course, assumes that Prean cannot pull off another major upset today against the world No

Another defeat and Waldner could not have qualified. To his credit he avoided that under the greatest possible pressure.

The Swede appeared to have saved the match point once when possibility in his group and then that lost game could be vital. This, of course, assumes that Prean cannot pull off another major upset today against the world No

Card of course

Table with columns: Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par. Rows 1-9.

Manuel Piñero is the holder after a breathtaking last round in 1982, but his record this season, with a share of fifth place in the high-water mark, carries no conviction of a successful defence.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing fixtures for Cricket, Football, and Rugby Union.

Commercial property/Baron Phillips

The syndicates are back in business

The United States property scene is undergoing a rapid transformation, according to leading agents.

But, more importantly, this resurgence of the private investor syndicates underlines a more buoyant property market in the US.

The early 1980s building boom is, however, sharply underlined

Coldwell Banker say that new construction of commercial space has virtually halted and there is evidence that demand is now picking up in a number of key US cities.

property market Quillers conclude: "North American property still offers many opportunities for the shrewd and active investor and, given the relatively dull outlook for UK Property, expect British property companies to add to their significant assets in the US and Canada."

There are still ample openings for UK investors because of the broad range

But the construction boom of the early 1980s coupled with a decline in the economy is sharply underlined in some cities where vacancy rates have increased almost tenfold within a year.

Despite the rise of the US investing syndicates there are still ample opportunities for UK investors to take advantage of the broad range of property, according to stockbrokers Quillers Goodson & Co.

The brokers say that North American holdings now account for over 7 per cent of property companies' investment portfolios. But the firm recognizes that US and Canada not only attracts the large property development and investment groups, smaller companies looking for growth can also participate in substantial schemes which simply are not available here in the UK.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSTRUCT AND DEVELOP A COUNTRY HOTEL OF 30 BEDROOMS

Situated at Milton Keynes, close to M1 interchange J14, this site which extends to approximately 3 acres has planning consent for a hotel with 30 bedrooms etc. It occupies a unique position on an eminence near to the city, yet retaining its own character and overlooking magnificent country to the South.

Joint Agents DOWNERDUFF RAEFFY RICKLAND

MAJOR REFURBISHMENT COMPLETED

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FREEHOLD INVESTMENT REQUIRED

UP TO £200,000 LOCATED IN LONDON. Preferably commercial property but industrial units will be considered.

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01-837 3311 or 3333 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

York

Draw: no advantage. Total: Double 3.10, 4.10, Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.40. Television (TV) 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races.

Salisbury

Draw advantage: High numbers best. 2.15 TEAL GUARANTEED STAKES (3-Y-O fillies: £897: 7f) (7 runners)

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Worcester

2.15 HARLEBUURY HURDLE (Setting handicap: £516: 2m) (10 runners)

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HORIZONS

The Times Guide to career development Keeping the handshake golden

The angry reaction by Lorrain, potential bidder for the House of Fraser, to the news that Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith had negotiated a two-year service contract which increased his salary to £80,000 a year, implied that such an arrangement was close to the controversial American practice of the "golden parachute".

Godfrey Golzen with advice for managers facing redundancy

18 months. Furthermore, although golden handshakes are tax-free to the first £25,000 and liable to a reduced rate on the next £50,000, the compensation in that case is assessed on a net of salary net of tax at ordinary rates.

much as a third to the real value of the salary and this fact ought to be taken into account in assessing the amount of the golden handshake. Ideally, fringe benefits ought to be written into the service contract, though in practice if you are with a company over a period of time, they tend to accumulate informally.

This is one very telling point to put to an employer in your negotiations and in assessing the real value of what you are being offered. It may not be as generous as it looks at first glance and for this reason the general advice is not to accept a severance offer without thinking about its full implications.

NEWSROUND

A controversial campaign launched last month advocates that the black economy should be paid legal, that every adult should be made £5,000 a year regardless of having a job, and that the concept of "earning your living" should be abolished forever.

extended to the remainder of Surrey and the directory area of North East Kent during mid-September. People wishing to use the service should call the operator and ask for Freephone 3412.

lighted by the survey is the effective rates of tax and social security in each country. Britain has traditionally been thought a high tax area, but it now appears to have relatively low rates at the different management levels.

Workshuffie is available from Lifekills Associates, Ashing, Back Church Lane, Adel Leeds, price £12.55.

operating throughout the following regions: Stockton (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5713); Newcastle (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5368); Leeds and Sheffield (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5110); Birmingham (021 directory area only - dial 100 and ask for Freephone DHSS).

French tax levels have increased substantially in the survey and the Swiss executive at the top level loses a higher proportion of his salary than his British counterpart. This is all cold comfort for the British executive however, as the executives of other countries surveyed receive correspondingly higher gross salaries.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT Central West London Friendly, positive atmosphere in fast developing office for consultant with experience in permanent placement.

ORGANISER/RESEARCHER Required for all parts of the UK interested in foreign affairs, travel, education, etc.

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Academic Director Diplomatic Service Language Centre

The Centre provides in-house tuition in central London in French, German, and Spanish for members of the Diplomatic Service, employing nine full-time lecturers and a pool of part-time tutors.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Chief Executive

West Midlands Industrial Development Association New Appointment £25,000+car

The West Midlands Industrial Development Association has recently been formed to bring together the resources of the private sector and local authorities to spearhead the drive for new jobs throughout the West Midlands.

KYNASTON INTERNATIONAL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BRITISH CERAMIC MANUFACTURERS FEDERATION North Staffordshire c.£20,000 + car

As a result of impending retirement, the BCFM, which represents the interests of the ceramic industry, is seeking a Chief Executive accountable to the Board.

TECHNICAL EDITOR FRENCH LANGUAGE

We are looking for a technical editor to work with a major multinational company in the oil and gas industry in London.

Considering a change of career? A HIGH INCOME: You will receive £22,000 in your first year with us if you meet basic targets.

International Appointments

SOHIO ENGINEERS

Meet Sohio at the World Petroleum Congress/London August 27 - September 3 and Offshore Europe '83/Aberdeen September 5-9

Sohio continues to search for skilled professionals as we continue our expansion efforts in Alaska and the Gulf Coast.

Senior Reservoir Engineers Our current need is for senior level Reservoir Engineers with 5-7 years of technical experience including a background in reservoir simulation.

At Sohio, we are not resting on our past successes. Our search for creativity and excellence goes on as we reinforce our position as a leader in U.S. crude oil production.

Your search leads to Sohio.

The Country Landowners' Association Appointment of REGIONAL SECRETARY, North-West

AMERICAN EMBASSY requires a Trade Centre Specialist (Promotions) to serve as Deputy Director of US International Marketing Centre.

SKI CONSULTANTS Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, require Ski Consultants to sell their excellent merchandise from October 1983 to February 1984.

SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

MARKETING EXECUTIVE International security consultancy requires Marketing Executive. Age 30-40. Previous marketing experience, sales and a European language essential.

SUPER SECRETARIES

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LONGLEAT A new post is open for a Marketing Officer with wide experience in Public Relations in the Tourism & Leisure Industries.

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WHICH CAREER SUITS BEST? Professional Guidance and Assessment for all ages.

INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATOR

COME AND BE APPRECIATED

JOIN THE WINE TRADE

VIDEO COMPANY - in W1 need a sales rep

FOOD/DRINKS/FMCG

Chief Executive Oracle Teletext The Chief Executive of Oracle Teletext Limited, Mr. Geoffrey Hughes, will be retiring at the end of 1983, and we are looking for his replacement.

ITV ORACLE TV Super Secretaries URGENT Experienced audio-typer with secretarial skills required for busy communications department.

RECEPTIONIST PROPERTY TO £8,500 A small company in Mayfair with a very pleasant, friendly staff, needs someone to greet visitors to their attractive office and look after a simple mailbox.

Bernadette of Bond St. Recruitment Consultants

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FOOD/DRINKS/FMCG

LARGE ANTIQUE DEALERS seeks a responsible and determined career person to sell their high quality and interesting merchandise.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM... Announcements published by the name and permanent address of the sender...

DEATHS... THOMAS - Suddenly in Edinburgh on 27th August 1983... TOMPKINS - On August 29th in her 92nd year...

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... CORFU - Flight only £135... VENTURA HOLIDAYS - 125 ALDERGATE ST. LONDON, EC1...

PERSONAL COLUMNS... HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY BARGAINS... GREEK ISLANDS 2, 3, 9...

RENTALS... VENTURA HOLIDAYS... BRITANNIA BARGAINS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER UP TO £100 OFF...

FLAT SHARING... TWICKENHAM Prof. Mrs. shares her 1140 sq. ft. flat...

Public Appointments... Home Defence College Tutors... This residential College, set in pleasant rural surroundings...

BIRTHS... BAILEY - On August 30th an 8lb 8oz baby boy...

MEMORIAL SERVICES... BRICKMAN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Frank Brickman...

PIILGRIM-AIR... MILAN £91 BOLOGNA £99... GREEK ISLANDS... FANTASTIC offers of up to £200 off...

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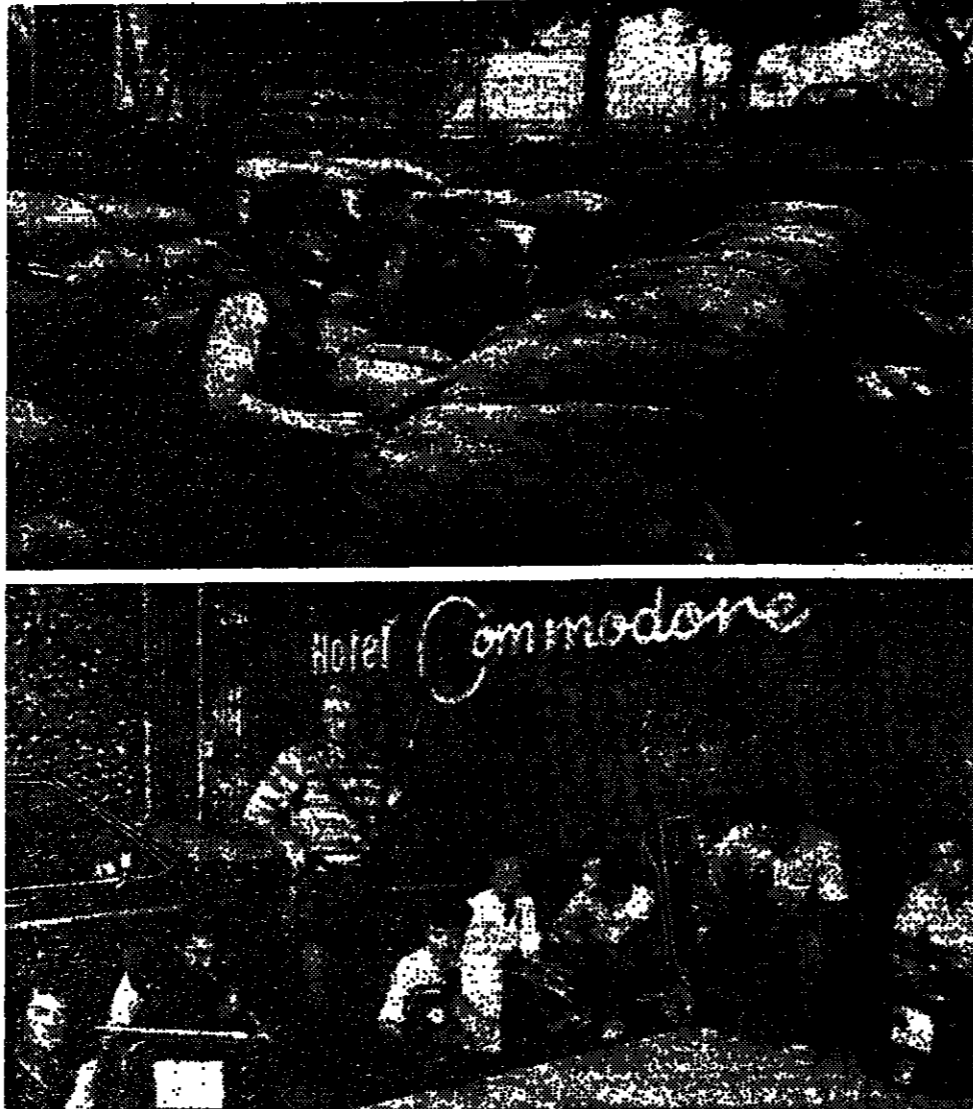


Day to apologize to Foot over confidence slip

Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster, said last night that he was writing to Mr Michael Foot to apologize for breaking a confidence in a sudden outburst during a debate with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, at the Edinburgh international television festival.

David Steel back on duty

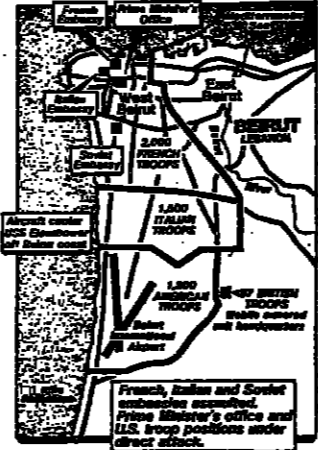
Mr David Steel the Liberal leader returned to duty yesterday for the first time since the start of his 10 weeks sabbatical.



Front-line Beirut: US Marines in a fox hole and TV crews trapped in an hotel with, right, Lebanese troops loading a helicopter with arms

Lebanon drifts to civil war

Continued from page 1 One of the few respected Muslim elder statesmen in the country - he represented Lebanon in talks with President Reagan earlier this year - condemned the Muslim militias and stood up for the Government.



Zimbabwe officers freed, then rearrested

Air Vice-Marshal Statter, his arm around his wife Jane, who is recovering from a car accident, was asked if the officers would remain in Zimbabwe. "That will have to depend on our families and the Prime Minister," he replied.

Greek anger at 'damage' to Marbles

A leading Greek conservation expert has accused the British Museum of causing irreversible damage to the statue of the Caryatid on the Elgin collection by coating it with plastic film.

Thousands of gas jobs to go

Senior executives at the corporation confirm that it plans to reduce its manpower well below 90,000 by 1990.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music: Music from the Praise Singers, Ivory Coast, The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 12.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,223

Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship 1983 The National Final takes place next Sunday, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m. at the Park Lane Hotel. Admission fee £2 a head.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating starting positions for words.

ACROSS: 1 Woolen headgear a danger in plant (8). 2 Poured insults on America in retirement (6).

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: A Bridge of People, a Personal View of Oxford's First Forty Years, by Ben Whitaker (Heinemann, £4.95).

The papers

The Washington Post said that Mr Begin was wrong in working hard to sidetrack President Reagan's plan, exactly a year ago, for a negotiated West Bank peace.

Roads

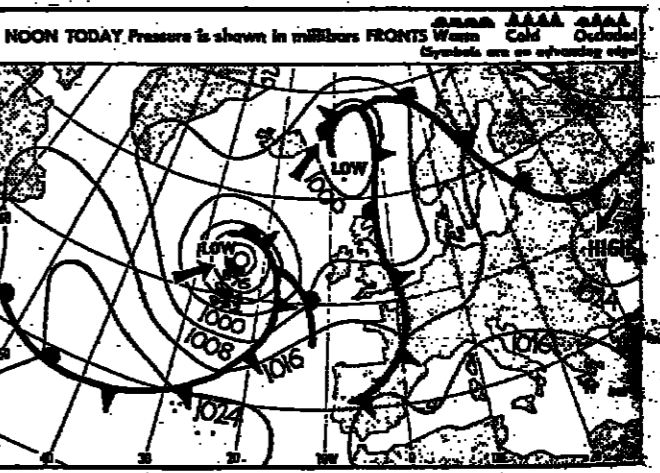
London and South-east: A501: congestion in Moorgate, City of London, on southbound carriageway, A281: Temporary signals on Shafton Road, Guildford, Surrey.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and Yugoslavia.

Weather forecast

A frontal trough lying over W Britain will clear slowly E 6 am to midnight. London, SE, E England, East Angles: Misty at first; outbreaks of rain.



High tides table listing tide times for various locations including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Arundel, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dover, Exeter, Glasgow, Harlow, Holyhead, Hull, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Wexford.

Around Britain

Table showing weather conditions (Sun, Rain, Wind, Cloud) and temperatures for various locations across Britain.

Abroad

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures for various international locations including Adelaide, Auckland, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Chicago, Dallas, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Johannesburg, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Melbourne, Mexico City, Moscow, New York, Perth, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Toronto, Vancouver, Wellington, and Zurich.

Swimming safety

We can still hope for some fine late holiday weather and the Central Office of Information calls for care when swimming. Always look out for the warning flags.

Beirut ban

The British Embassy in Beirut has advised against anyone from Britain visiting the city until further notice.

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